

32 Adam Bries (4)

SHOOT!

25p

WORLD CUP

SPECIAL

21st
NOVEMBER,
1981

'ENGLAND CAN DO IT!' -KEEGAN



EXPERT VIEWS
FROM

**Ron
Greenwood**
**Danny
McGrain**

**Martin
O'Neill**
**Brian
Flynn**

MANCHESTER CITY

TEAM GROUP

World Cup thriller

THE suspense generated by the qualifying ties for next summer's World Cup jamboree in Spain knocks spots off 'Dallas' for producing the unexpected.

How can football be condemned for being dull when England, Northern Ireland, Eire and Wales alone can serve up such gripping "will they, won't they" entertainment?

The only certainty, in a year of climax and anti-climax, is that Scotland will achieve a hat-trick of World Cup appearances.

It is fairly predictable that Scotland will not make the same mistakes which marred their last World Cup campaign.

The Scotland squad is crammed with talent when international football is allegedly short of quality players.

SHOOT, view!

Wales, who shook their Group Three opponents in early qualifying games, now rely on others to confirm their destiny, but such are the unexpected twists and turns of the monkey-tree leading to the Finals that Northern Ireland, nobodies favourites for qualification, will be fighting for a point to clinch their entry when Israel visit Belfast on November 18.

Billy Bingham's attacking policy throughout the competition preliminaries has paid handsome dividends.

That leaves England, the most unpredictable team of the lot. Rarely in their history has an England captain carried more responsibility than Kevin Keegan bears at Wembley against the Hungarians.

Keegan and his manager, will not be caught out as England's 1953 team were against the "Mighty Magyars". But will they win? Another imponderable for the fans to worry about.

The appearance of three British teams in a World Cup Finals would create history and provide the stimulant which has been missing from international football in this corner of the world for too long.

ENGLAND v HUNGARY, Wembley...

It will be one of football's greatest ironies if England clinch their World Cup summer in Spain with a second victory over Hungary.

The Hungarians have had a recurring influence on the life and thinking of England manager Ron Greenwood, and the Magyars are to him what the word Blackpool is to a stick of rock.

Ever since 1953 when Puskas, Hidegkuti and company mesmerised us all at Wembley, Greenwood has had a passionate love affair with Hungarian football.

Now his own standing in the game rests precariously on the outcome of one game: England v Hungary.



Trevor Brooking scored two crucial goals in Budapest.

'I've always believed we'd qualify'
— GREENWOOD



ESPAÑA 82

"It is true that the Hungarian side which ended 30 years of total English dominance at Wembley had the greatest influence on my football philosophy — but now we have to beat them to make my greatest dream of leading England to the World Cup Finals come true," he says.

Greenwood acknowledges that England are slightly fortunate to have any chance at all.

"We have had the opportunities to reach Spain without outside interference, but we haven't taken them, and we needed our back-sides kicking for failing in Norway, and at home to Rumania in particular.

'Standards'

"But perhaps people are beginning to realise that there has been a great levelling off in world football standards.

"People laughed at us when we lost in Switzerland, but I knew they weren't a bad side. Because we had always beaten them before it didn't give us a divine right to do it again, and it was the same in Norway, although I don't think they are as good as the Swiss.

"I didn't hear too many jokes about the Rumanians when they were beaten at home by Switzerland, and there wasn't a lot in our papers when Denmark beat Italy 3-1.

"But these are the sort of results we must expect nowadays.

HISTORY FAVOURS ENGLAND

December	1936	Won	6-2	Highbury
November	1953	Lost	3-6	Wembley
May	1965	Won	1-0	Wembley
May	1978	Won	4-1	Wembley

HOME RECORD AGAINST HUNGARY

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Ag
1936-78	4	3	0	1	14	9

ENGLAND v HUNGARY, Wembley... ENGLAND

"What really peeved me was that when we beat Hungary in Budapest, they were dubbed a bad side that couldn't play. We were given no credit at all — simply because we were England."

"That was very unfair on the players who had done a marvellous job, and I was very angry and upset for them."

Hungarian skipper Tibor Nyilasi (dark shirt) in action against Rumania.

"I have seen the Hungarians twice recently and they were absolutely scintillating. It's rubbish to say they can't play. They are an exciting team, and while I don't want to say too much about the game at Wembley, I want people to realise it will not be a walk-over. It will be a very difficult match."

Greenwood points to Andras Torocsik and Tibor Nyilasi as the

greatest threat to England: "Two really magnificent players," but warns that centre-backs Garaba and Muller and right-back Martos will also have a big say in the outcome of England's most crucial match for years.

Failure is unthinkable in view of England's dismal record of actually failing to qualify for a World Cup Finals for 19 years.

"I was with West Ham when that 1-1 draw with Poland prevented us going to West Germany, and I had only just taken over last time when we missed the boat to Argentina on goal difference."

"It goes without saying that the success of the national side has a colossal bearing on the game throughout the country."

"It was a terrific boost for the game when we won the World Cup in 1966, but whenever we fail interest is bound slump."

"All I can say is that I know the whole country is behind us against Hungary. People want us to do well, the players know what is expected of them, and if we fail it won't be for want of trying."

"I've always believed that we would be in Spain, and I'm hopeful of seeing the job through now."

"We were given a reprieve when the Swiss won in Rumania. Now we have to grab our chance with both hands," says Greenwood.



'Lets give game a lift'
— KEEGAN

ON October 9th, it seemed that the only way English footballers would be in Spain next summer was on holiday. The next day Switzerland won 2-1 in Rumania.

While soccer folk are naturally optimistic, deep down Ron Greenwood must have thought England's chances had gone up the fjord with that defeat in Oslo.

Switzerland's victory doesn't suddenly make England a good or even better team. All it does is to open the World Cup door again and to put England's fate back in their own hands.

Kevin Keegan, whose enthusiasm and never-say-die spirit will be needed more than ever next Wednesday at Wembley, will possibly bow out of English football at the end of the season; possibly to start a new career in the USA.

It would have been tragic for the little feller if he had gone to the States before the World Cup Finals. Now, he has the chance to play at the highest level of football... although he realises there is much still to be done.

"I'd rather we had qualified on our own merit," says the England skipper, "but we've been given another chance and we must make the most of it."

"It won't be easy to beat Hungary, but I'm confident we can to give a lift to the game which has gone through such a bad spell. We must forget what happened in Switzerland and Norway. All that matters now is Wembley next week and I hope that marks the lift-off for our World Cup campaign."

'We want revenge!'
— HUNGARY BOSS

"AS I explained to SHOOT last Spring," recalls Hungary manager Gulman Meszoly, "our idea right from the beginning of the group was to arrive at Wembley for this fixture with our place in Spain already secured."

"On no account did I want us to be obliged to pick up points in England."

"The strange thing is that, of all the teams in the group, we are the only ones to have produced more or less the results we expected."

"The exception was our game against England in Budapest, which I expected to win. I was quite impressed with England's performance that day, and I thought Brooking had an exceptional game."

"But remember that we played our poorest game of the entire campaign, and I'm sure we'll play a great deal better at Wembley."

"I expected England to drop a point in Norway, you know. I think the times are past when countries can win matches purely on prestige and history."

Meszoly and his men arrive in London after taking points from all their previous away games, and

have proved in a series of friendlies that they're dangerous on the counter-attack thanks to the speed of Kiss and the incisive runs of free-scoring Nyilasi — the European Silver Boot winner who scored twice against Switzerland.

And with experienced men like Balint (33) and Toth (29) at the back, Ron Greenwood's boys may find it difficult to gain the upper hand.

'Pressure'

"All the pressure will be on England," remarks Meszoly. "If they fail to score, or if we score, then the pressure will be doubled or tripled."

"We are taking this game very seriously indeed, I promise you. It is always an honour to play football at Wembley. But the last time we were there, just before the 1978 World Cup, we lost 4-1. We'll be looking to win."

"The players and I are determined that we will do a lot better this time."

And despite their disappointing performance against England in Budapest, the Hungarians have got the experience and the skills of men like Fazekas, Nyilasi and Torocsik.

It won't be easy...



ENGLAND'S OVERALL RECORD AGAINST HUNGARY

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Ag
1908-1981	12	7	0	5	39	27

Top England goalscorers against Hungary.
Woodward 7, Hilsdon 4, Drake 3, Fleming 3, Brooking 2, Holley 2.

It's been an up-and-down campaign for most of the Home countries and here we trace their fortunes on the long and often rocky road to Spain.



WORLD CUP SEE-SAW

1980

MARCH

The first European qualifiers see good starts for both the Republic and Northern Ireland. The Republic break their away hoodoo and win 3-2 in Cyprus; Northern Ireland travel to Israel, rated 'European' for political reasons, and come home with a point. Irish eyes are smiling...

JUNE

A perfect start for Wales, who win 4-0 in Iceland. Two points and an early boost for their goal-difference. Long-range dreams of all five countries qualifying...

SEPTEMBER

Can be an awkward month for British teams internationally as the players have had little match practice. Yet both England and Scotland start their campaigns in fine

hitting Cyprus for six. Wales beat Czechoslovakia by the narrowest of margins, but the result was the important factor: a 1-0 win. England stutter to a 2-1 victory over Switzerland, helped by an own-goal, and Northern Ireland lose 1-0 in Portugal.



Scotland's John Robertson (above) is confronted by Carlos Manuel Don Santos of Portugal during the World Cup clash at Hampden Park which resulted in a 0-0 draw. Chris Hughton (left, dark shirt) in action during the Republic of Ireland's win against France. Steve Archibald (right) on the ball for Scotland against the Israelis.



style, England putting four past Norway, and Scotland, whose away form had been poor, winning 1-0 in Sweden. The Republic beat Holland 2-1 in Dublin, while a bonus for England is that Rumania can only draw in Norway.

OCTOBER

A disappointing month overall. A dreadful decision by the referee robs the Republic of possible glory in France where they lose 2-0 after a 1-1 draw with Belgium in Dublin. England go down 2-1 in Rumania and Scotland are held goalless at home by Portugal. Bright spots are Northern Ireland's 3-0 win over Sweden and Wales' 4-0 drubbing of Turkey.

NOVEMBER

The groups start to take some sort of shape. The Republic do their goal-difference a power of good,

Wembley with Rumania and their fans worry if they'll miss out yet again. No such worries for Scotland, who beat Israel 3-1, while Northern Ireland have their revenge on Portugal 1-0.

MAY

England leave for Switzerland and Hungary with their hopes still high, expecting three points from the two games. Two quick goals by Switzerland backed by a fanatical crowd are too much for England, who lose 2-1. They must now win in Hungary to keep their chances alive, a tall order.

JUNE

The 'impossible' happens and England play their best football under Ron Greenwood to beat Hungary 3-1. Northern Ireland lose 1-0 in Sweden having Terry Cochrane sent-off in the process.

SEPTEMBER

One of the blackest months in England's World Cup history. They



are beaten — no, humiliated, 2-1 in Norway and there's no fluke about it either. This result brings the biggest cheer of the night to a packed Hampden, even though Scotland beat Sweden 2-0. The Republic play as if their lives depended on it and fully deserve their 2-2 draw in Holland.

OCTOBER

Scotland's 0-0 draw in Northern Ireland books their ticket for Spain, while Sweden's surprise win in Portugal means Billy Bingham's team are back in with a chance after believing their hopes were dashed. The Republic beat France 3-2 in Dublin and must now wait and hope that Holland and France draw their next game. Wales' hopes are dim after their 2-2 home draw with Iceland in the Swansea gloom. The best result for non-playing England is Switzerland's win in Rumania. "With A Little Help From Our Friends" is the new England theme tune!



Elie's Frank Stapleton beats off a challenge from Belgium's Luc Millecamps.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W. Germany	6	6	0	0	21	3	12
Austria	7	5	0	2	16	6	10
Bulgaria	6	4	0	2	11	6	8
Albania	7	1	0	6	4	14	2
Finland	8	1	0	7	4	27	2

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	5	1	2	12	9	11
Eire	8	4	2	2	17	11	10
Holland	7	4	1	2	11	5	9
France	6	3	0	3	14	8	6
Cyprus	7	0	0	7	4	25	0

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	6	5	1	0	16	1	11
Wales	7	4	2	1	12	4	10
Czech.	7	4	1	2	14	5	9
Iceland	8	2	2	4	10	21	6
Turkey	8	0	0	8	1	22	0

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	7	4	2	1	13	7	10
England	7	3	1	3	12	8	7
Rumania	7	2	3	2	5	5	7
Switzerland	7	2	2	3	9	12	6
Norway	8	2	2	4	8	15	6

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugo	6	4	1	1	15	6	9
Italy	6	4	1	1	10	4	9
Denmark	8	4	0	4	14	11	8
Greece	6	3	0	3	8	10	6
Luxem.	6	0	0	6	1	17	0

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	7	4	3	0	8	2	11
Sweden	8	3	2	3	7	8	8
N. Ireland	7	2	3	2	5	3	7
Israel	7	1	3	3	6	9	5
Portugal	7	2	1	4	6	10	5

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	3	3	0	0	6	2	6
E. Germany	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
Malta	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

1981

FEBRUARY

Another fine away performance by Scotland — a 1-0 win in Israel. Scottish hopes of a third successive appearance in the Finals are high, although Jock Stein keeps a low profile.

MARCH

Wales march on with a 1-0 win in Turkey. Northern Ireland hold Scotland 1-1 at Hampden Park, but Wales chalk up another two points with a clean sheet in Turkey: 1-0. Another poor refereeing decision goes against the Republic, who lose 1-0 in Belgium.

APRIL

England can only draw 0-0 at



Colin Bell beats Jerzy Gorgon of Poland but another chance goes begging as England are tumbled out of the 1974 World Cup qualifying stages.

'Fate on our side this time' says COLIN BELL

IF FATE plays any part in deciding the destiny of international footballers, England are certain to qualify for the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain.

That's the opinion of Colin Bell, the former Manchester City and England midfield player, who believes that fate wrecked his World Cup dreams eight years ago.

Bell was a member of Sir Alf Ramsey's ill-fated team whose efforts failed to crack Poland at Wembley on October 17, 1973.

"A win would have guaranteed us a place in the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany," says Bell. "But Poland somehow held out for a 1-1 draw despite spending 90 per cent of the game in their own box!

'Fated'

"I remember the whole nightmare as if it were last week. I am convinced we were fated not to qualify. Just as I am equally convinced that England will make it this time. Twice I have written them off and twice they have been thrown life-lines in an astonishingly inconsistent group.

"But the crucial match with Hungary on November 18 is pitted with the same dangers that we faced eight years ago. England must beware of a number of important factors.

"When we prepared for the game against Poland we were aware of just how important the occasion was. The domestic competitions come around every year, but the World Cup is something most players never experience,

some get a taste and a small minority actually play in the Finals.

"Yes, even the experienced lads were nervous. I know I was. The fans gave us their all, 100,000 of them drowned Poland in noise. We never panicked, and kept playing the right way. But their 'keeper, Tomaszewski, played the game of his life, Domarski scored on one of their very rare breaks, and despite Allan Clarke's penalty we could not get the winner.

"Hungary are sore about being thumped 3-1 in front of their own fans. And they would rather knock out England now than have to do so in Spain. So forget the nonsense being talked about an easier game. If anything there is a danger The Magyars will let down their hair and show their skills, as they did when crushing Switzerland 3-0.

"The build up has been tremendous, and it will have put pressure on the players, don't doubt that for one moment. Kevin Keegan and Co. have had to suffer a lot of stick since Norway, and this could be the last World Cup chance for a lot of the squad. So the determination will be there. They will die rather than fail. But then we believed the same in 1973.

"This is one of the most important games in England's history if you look to the future. Hungary have less to lose, and therefore may be more inclined to come out and attack. England must be prepared for that possibility. But I have a feeling that the books will be balanced this time around. And I will be out there with them in my thoughts, knowing exactly what those players will be going through."

Poland are through to the World Cup Finals again — a special report from TIM KESYAN, who explains that even such a boost to a football crazy country can't lift the national gloom.

Little for Poland to celebrate

UNLIKE the early 70's there was little jubilation in Poland when we qualified for the World Cup Finals.

Everyone is happy that we are getting back on our feet again, at least in soccer. But a nation weary of hardship, where just about everything is rationed, tends to acknowledge such spirit-boosting developments without much elation.

The Poles were pessimistic before the vital game in East Germany. Piechniczek, the Poland manager, gambled by awarding first caps to some 'unknowns' and placed the emphasis on individual skill rather than team-work.

He told his players to attack, whereas the East Germans were expecting a tight-knit defence.

The trick worked because in international events a very important psychological factor comes into play and this became evident in Leipzig.

With everything in a shambles back home and a lot of fraternal nose-prying into Poland's affairs players are more awake to their national pride. Especially when, as in Leipzig, a few thousand Polish

supporters employed on projects in East Germany were turned away from the gates even though tickets remained unsold.

The result: Poland led 2-0 five minutes after the kick-off.

There is one more thing that makes people here look up to the 3-2 win in Leipzig as more than a flash in the pan. It is that the air has been cleared considerably in soccer by the year long revolt of the worker-led nation.

Nationwide war on corruption started and, led by Solidarity, has resulted in the flow of funds at company level being watched more closely than ever.

Donations

Steelworks and mines can hardly afford these days to lavish money and perks on their 'darling' soccer stars — or to contribute to clubs' secret funds from which donations were handed out to keep the prima donnas happy.

Players these days are tamer than before. No fictitious phantom jobs are allowed to keep up the pretence of amateurism. Today, players are paid a flat monthly 'grant' — roughly twice the average Polish wage for a First Division star — plus bonuses for wins or draws.

Moreover, in training players can have as much otherwise rationed meats and cheese as they can eat. Where massive unemployment is a real problem players tend to take their jobs more seriously.

Hopefully, qualifying for Spain '82 can open another chapter in the history of Polish soccer. I think this country needs it more than any other in the world right now.



Poland players celebrate their qualification for Spain.

NORTHERN IRELAND v ISRAEL, Belfast

NORTHERN Ireland are banking on experience to clinch a trip to the World Cup Finals. Irish hopes rest entirely on Israel's visit to Windsor Park, Belfast, on the biggest night of World Cup action for years.

The Irish need only to draw to qualify. So Martin O'Neill, Northern Ireland's Manchester City midfielder player, admits: "It will be a night for cool heads. Seeing players like Chris Nicholl, Sammy McIlroy and Pat Jennings in our side will be an immense comfort.

"Players like them have enormous experience and we shall need that type of know-how.

"Goals have been scarce in our group so I'm hoping we shall need to score no more than one or possibly two to get through.

"It's nice to know we've only to avoid defeat and we are there.

"I wasn't surprised Portugal and Wales slipped up against Israel Iceland.

"The situation they were in was fraught with danger.

"There are no easy games at international level these days because there has been such a levelling-up in standards throughout the world. No one is a soft touch."

The fact the Irish have a great chance of going to Spain is proof of the remarkable turnarounds in the World Cup qualifying campaign.

O'Neill admits: "We thought our chance had gone when we could only draw against the Scots. We were unlucky not to win that match, but we felt we'd blown it.

"Then, Portugal lost at home to Sweden and away to Israel and we knew we were back in it.

Scotland captain Asa Hartford blocks Gerry Armstrong's shot for Northern Ireland on the line.

'We'll do it— if we keep cool' says MARTIN O'NEILL

"When we lost in Sweden in June, we felt we'd had it. It just shows what an unpredictable thing international football is these days."

Northern Ireland have conceded only three goals in seven World Cup qualifying games.

O'Neill says: "That record should give us confidence against Israel. Pat Jennings is a major factor in that; he gives the whole side enormous confidence. And Chris Nicholl, the Southampton defender, has had a superb qualifying tournament.

"We drew 0-0 in Israel and it was a very difficult game. We ought to be capable of winning in Belfast, but we have to be patient.

"It will be no good if we frantically rush forward looking for goals. If that happens, we're liable to concede some at our end and that would be disastrous.

"That's why the experienced players have such a big role to play. They can help keep things cool and keep the pressure on Israel until we break through."

Irish eyes should be smiling on Wednesday night after the Israel match, even if history doesn't encourage O'Neill to make

predictions.

"I admit this current team is far better equipped to stay cool and triumph," he says.

"But I seem to remember lots of other Northern Ireland teams panicking and losing matches they were expected to win.

"We've won in places like Bulgaria in recent times but then slipped up at home in the easier fixtures.

"Northern Ireland have a habit of doing that, but we cannot afford that mistake this time."

'Pressure'

The Irish will look for an early goal against Israel "to take the pressure off us," says O'Neill.

"If we score early, we will probably settle down and do well

"We have taken five points out of six at home and all know we shall never have a better chance of reaching the Finals. It's a dream for all of us.

"If we had been told before the qualifying competition began that we would have to draw with Israel at home in our final match, we would have gladly settled for that situation.

"Now that is the case we must ensure we make no slips.

"Things have gone so well for us recently, after we feared we had blown it. We could still get a rude awakening — as England might — but I hope not in either case.

"We are in a fabulous position now, and we've got to seize our chance with both hands."



PORTUGAL v SCOTLAND, Lisbon... PORTU

"PLEASE excuse me from the international match." That is the note I have had to pen to Scotland boss Jock Stein to explain my absence from duty in Lisbon this week.

I had to pull out of the international squad because of a fracture to my leg which was incurred in a match against Partick Thistle a few weeks ago.

I missed the match against Northern Ireland in Belfast as well and made my comeback to training at the end of October. But there seemed little point in making a do-or-die effort to get fit in time to

international class.

Ray Stewart of West Ham did a marvellous job standing in for me in Belfast . . . so good indeed that I should be worrying about my future at international level!

Seriously, though, I have become a lot more philosophical about my international future. Up to the Irish game I had won 16 caps in a row and I was determined to keep the run going.

After the ankle injury which kept me out for a year I just wanted to play for Scotland even once again, so all this is really a bonus. My target at one time was 40 caps and I made it before the injury.

When I got into the habit of being



Ray Stewart proved an able deputy for the injured Danny McGrain against Northern Ireland.

TARTAN TALK
DANNY MCGRAIN



'A chance for our fringe players'

face the Portuguese.

After all, Scotland made their qualification as group winners for Spain certain after that point in Belfast and there is little reward in risking anything in Portugal.

The postponement of the 'B' international against the same nation this week means that Jock Stein will need every possible opportunity to try out fringe players . . . those who are not always regular first choices in the Scotland team but who are definitely

chosen again I wanted to make it 50. Now that it is 56, the only target is 57!

My absence in Portugal will give Mr Stein another chance to try out these fringe men I mentioned and that is important as everyone makes a rush for a mention in the World Cup 40.

One man who will certainly be mentioned in that group is Asa Hartford, who took over as skipper from me in Belfast and produced a quite magnificent job.

Asa just doesn't receive the credit he is due for his performances in a Scotland jersey although the players appreciate everything he does. Asa isn't what I term a "headline player" but I rate the man very highly indeed.

He will be vital to our efforts in Spain next summer when I think we could do well. It is my opinion for example that in many ways our current international squad is better — certainly more experienced at international level — than the pool

which returned from West Germany unbeaten in 1974.

Meanwhile I would like to record my sympathy to the family of John Doyle, so tragically killed in an accident at his home last month.

I don't think I have ever known a player more dedicated to one club than John, except perhaps Alex MacDonald in his Rangers days.

John never hid his love for Celtic, even in the days he played for Ayr United, and if he hadn't been wearing a green and white hooped jersey I know he would have been wearing a green and white scarf on the Parkhead terraces.

Memorial

He was an honest man was John and he will be sadly missed at Celtic Park. I think the best memorial to him — or at least the one he would have wanted most — would be to have the Scottish League Championship flag flying over the ground at the end of the season.

Finally we have had a couple of bad results recently which have raised a few eyebrows — especially perhaps losing to Hibs at Easter Road for our first League defeat of the season.

But might I point out that we were playing without key men in Davie Provan, Tom McAdam . . . and dare I suggest it, yours truly! Not many sides could keep going strong without that proportion of their team.

Anyway, it is the number of games lost when the points are finally tallied next April that counts.

See you in two weeks.

Danny McGrain

Ipswich Town's Alan Brazil could force himself into manager Jock Stein's plans for Spain.



USSR v WALES, Tbilisi... USSR v WALES.

EVERY ounce of Welsh fighting spirit will be poured into the World Cup tie against the USSR in Tbilisi on Wednesday. From being the best bets among all five British Isles nations to qualify for the World Cup Finals, they are now outsiders.

"And maybe that suits us," says Brian Flynn who looks certain to skipper Wales against the brilliant Russians. "Now perhaps we can get back to playing our best football. Suddenly we are underdogs and the pressure is off."

"That is the way it was when we started: then we had four straight wins against Iceland, Turkey twice and Czechoslovakia. When we drew 0-0 against the Russians at Wrexham, it was nine points out of ten and not a goal scored against us."

From that point, everything went wrong for Wales. They lost 0-2 in Czechoslovakia and were left in total dismay when the impossible happened — little Iceland drew 2-2 at the Vetch Field when manager Mike England included six Swansea players on their own pitch.

"Now we have to win in Tbilisi. Our position in group three is completely straightforward: two points or it's all over," says Flynn. "No one now believes that we will reach Spain and that means we can relax instead of being so uptight."

Wales cannot afford another 90 minutes of careless finishing. "Chances were tossed away

against Iceland," says Mike England. He responds strongly to the charge that his selection, with

'Being underdogs suits us' — FLYNN



Brian Flynn is shadowed by Russia's Leonid Buryak at Wrexham.



Leighton Phillips and Terry Yorath on the bench, was at fault.

"If we hadn't created the chances in the first place, then I would have been worried. But we DID create them: it was simply that they were not taken. There has to be a huge improvement against the Russians."

To find that missing finishing power, England is likely to use the aerial power of Liverpool's Ian Rush. He came on late in the game against Iceland and was checked from his first Wales goal by brilliant goalkeeping.

"I've had some chances with Liverpool this season and I've scored some goals to justify my selection. Now I want to do the same for Wales," says the tall North Wales youngster.

Discarded

It will be a vital match, too, for Leighton Phillips at the other end of the team. His role of sweeper, controversially discarded against Iceland, is bound to be urgently needed to check those dazzling runs by David Kipiani, Oleg Blokhin and Ramaz Shengelia.

The 57 times capped Charlton defender knows that these could be his final 90 minutes of World Cup football unless Wales produces that sensational win. "Like all the rest, I had set my heart on going to Spain. If we get there now, we've got to do what we did against the Russians at Wrexham last May — shut them out ... and score ourselves!" he says.

Defeat for Holland — the end for Thijssen and Muhren

IPSWICH midfield man Arnold Muhren hopes to be Holland's lucky mascot in France as the Group Two qualifying programme reaches an exciting climax.

Muhren, in his fourth season in England, has never finished on the losing side while representing his country and he'll be bidding to extend the unbeaten run to six games in Paris.

He says: "I think we have a good chance of winning but I am confident we can at least draw. That would mean a play-off against the Republic of Ireland which would obviously be a difficult game."

"From what I have seen Eire are better than France. They are strong in every department — David O'Leary and Mark Lawrenson in defence, Liam Brady in midfield and two good strikers in Mike Robinson and Frank Stapleton."



Ipswich's Dutch duo Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren with the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Oddly enough, it was Eire's dramatic 3-2 home defeat of France last month that left the World Cup door open for the Dutch, runners-up in the last two competitions.

"We really thought it was all

over when we could only draw 2-2 with Eire," explains Muhren who, along with his Ipswich colleague Frans Thijssen, were the Dutch goalscorers in that game.

But in the next round of qualifying games Holland defeated Belgium, who had already clinched their place in Spain, and France went down in Dublin, two results that blew the group wide open again.

Johan Neeskens, a star of the 1974 and 1978 Finals, was wel-

comed back for the Belgium clash but Muhren points out that the Dutch squad is littered with experienced players who have just one more opportunity to play at this level.

He says: "It is the last chance for both Frans and myself and several others because we are all aged 29 and 30 and will be too old for the 1986 competition. The manager, Kees Rijvers, has said that if we fail to qualify this time he will turn to younger players."

Responded

Muhren was recalled by Rijvers last March to help revive Holland's flagging World Cup hopes and he responded immediately by scoring the only goal in the home win over France. But he had previously stated that he would never play for his country again.

He explains: "The previous manager, Jan Zwartkruis, told me to pack my bags for Argentina in 1978 because I would definitely be in the squad. I had arranged a family holiday in Spain which I immediately cancelled."

"Then I read in a newspaper that I wasn't going to Argentina after all and it upset me to receive that type of treatment."

"At that point I had played twice for the national team and I decided I wouldn't bother again. But when the coach took over he telephoned me and I decided to accept his offer. Now I want nothing more than to be in Spain with the Dutch team."

THEY'VE MADE IT...THEY'VE MADE IT

ALGERIA beat John Chiedozie's Nigeria to one of the African places, they will be joined by either Morocco or Cameroun. It's Algeria's first time in the Finals.

Prospects Even a draw in Spain would be some success for them.

ARGENTINA will be out to defend the crown they won at home in 1978 with most of the names that forged their Buenos Aires triumph, plus the world's top player, Diego Maradona, who'll have to prove his worth against some of the world's top hatchet-men. With Kempes struggling to regain 1978 form, most of the goals could come from 22-year-old striker Ramon Diaz. Manager Menotti still hasn't found adequate cover in midfield or on the flanks, and must be hoping that exiles Ardiles and Bertoni will recover their 1978 level. Luque's departure has also left the front line physically lightweight. The Spanish-speakers will feel at home in Spain — a venue that must rate second-best to Buenos Aires.

Prospects Even a draw in Spain win the title.

BELGIUM burst on the scene with their 1980 European Championship display of practical counter-attacking football, though their inspiration, the veteran midfielder Van Moer can't last for ever. Manager Guy Thys can count on exceptional talents like Gerets, Van der Eycken, Van den Bergh and Ceulemans, plus the repatriated Van der Elst, though there are question marks over cover for Pfaff in goal and the team's ability to take the initiative against lesser opposition, instead of playing their usual cat-and-mouse game. Indeed they were particularly unconvincing against Cyprus in their qualifying group.

Prospects Not among the hot favourites, they'll be difficult to beat. Unlikely to improve on their 1980 form.

BRAZIL Finalists in the Copa de Oro and sensational on their recent European tour, Tele Santana's Brazil has recovered some of its former glory, even though Zico has yet to produce his Flamengo form in a major tournament. Socrates, Junior and Paulo Isidoro are among the exciting talents in the team though, as usual, Santana's not short of talented individuals — his job is to construct a team. Their football will be very much at home in the heat of a Spanish summer, and thousands of their colourful fans are aiming to cross the Atlantic to lend support. Brazil played poorly in 1978... and finished third. This team looks infinitely better.

Prospects Joint favourites with Argentina, but on current form they probably have the edge on their old enemies.

CHILE brushed aside Ecuador and South American Champions Paraguay in their qualifying group without conceding a goal, and the side

BRAZIL WILL WIN!

WHILE teams on all five continents are still engaged in do-or-die battles for the remaining places in next year's World Cup Finals, half of the 24 names have already been linked on to the list of starters.

What sort of football will they provide? What star names can we expect to see? Who will qualify for the second phase? Who will win it? **SHOOT** takes a brief look at the prospects for the first qualifiers.



Brazilian skipper Carlos Alberto with the 1970 Jules Rimet trophy.

managed by Luis Santibanez is preparing its World Cup campaign very seriously indeed. At 35 skipper Elias Figueroa is still commanding in the centre of the defence; goalkeeper Obsen could be one of the names to watch; striker Carlos Caszely is the Jimmy Greaves of Chilean football; and 20-year-old striker Patricio Yanez is one of the most exciting talents to emerge in South America. In spite of Dubo, Bonvallet and Neira, midfield is possibly the weakest link in the side.

Prospects Not world-beaters, but a reasonable bet for the second phase.

HUNGARY qualified from the craziest group in Europe and are determined to improve on their 1978 form when they lost all three games. Experienced men from that team, such as Meszaros, Toth, Balint, Fazekas, Nyilasi and Torocsik, have been blended with newcomers such as Katzirz, Kiss and Garaba. Attacking midfielder Nyilasi and striker Torocsik remain the outstanding members of Kalman Meszoly's team, and their swift

counter-attacks are a constant threat. Main weaknesses are a lack of consistency and lack of good cover at full-back.

Prospects Dark horses. More consistency needed for a serious challenge.

PERU were dismissed as outsiders in 1978 and surprised everybody by eliminating Scotland. Also dismissed as outsiders in their 1982 qualifying group, they surprised everybody by eliminating Copa de Oro Champs Uruguay. Brazilian manager Tim retains the nucleus of the 1978 side, including veterans Quiroga (31), Cubillas (32) and Oblitas (30) — though 37-year-old skipper Chumpitaz has announced his retirement. Seven of the side will be over 30 when the Finals kick-off, and the only exciting new talents are midfielder Barbadillo and striker Uribe.

Prospects Despite outstanding solo performers, may find it tougher going this time round, with opponents now wiser to their tricks.

POLAND played exceptionally good attacking football to beat the East Germans home and away, with the evergreen Lato (31) still a major force, alongside Szarmach (also 31), and with Widzew Lodz star Boniek (25) still pulling the strings in midfield. With Iwan and Smolarek also posing a continuous threat to opposing defences, the Polish team wisely plays attacking football and does its best to cover over the weaknesses in the defence. Could have problems against counter-attack experts like Belgium or Spain.

Prospects Good bet for the second phase, but unlikely to repeat third placing of 1974.

SCOTLAND cruised through their qualifying group, scoring few goals but conceding a good deal fewer. Jock Stein has an almost embarrassing wealth of talent to choose from, as all our readers will know. The Big Man has surely learnt from all the mistakes made in 1978, and the more experienced players are wiser and determined to make amends. A massive Tartan Army is bound to cross the Channel to support the side, and let's hope they and the team don't let anybody down. The side has strength in all departments, though there must be a question mark over the team's ability to cope with South American opposition.

Prospects Could reach the second phase this time, if over-confidence can be avoided. Then, who knows?

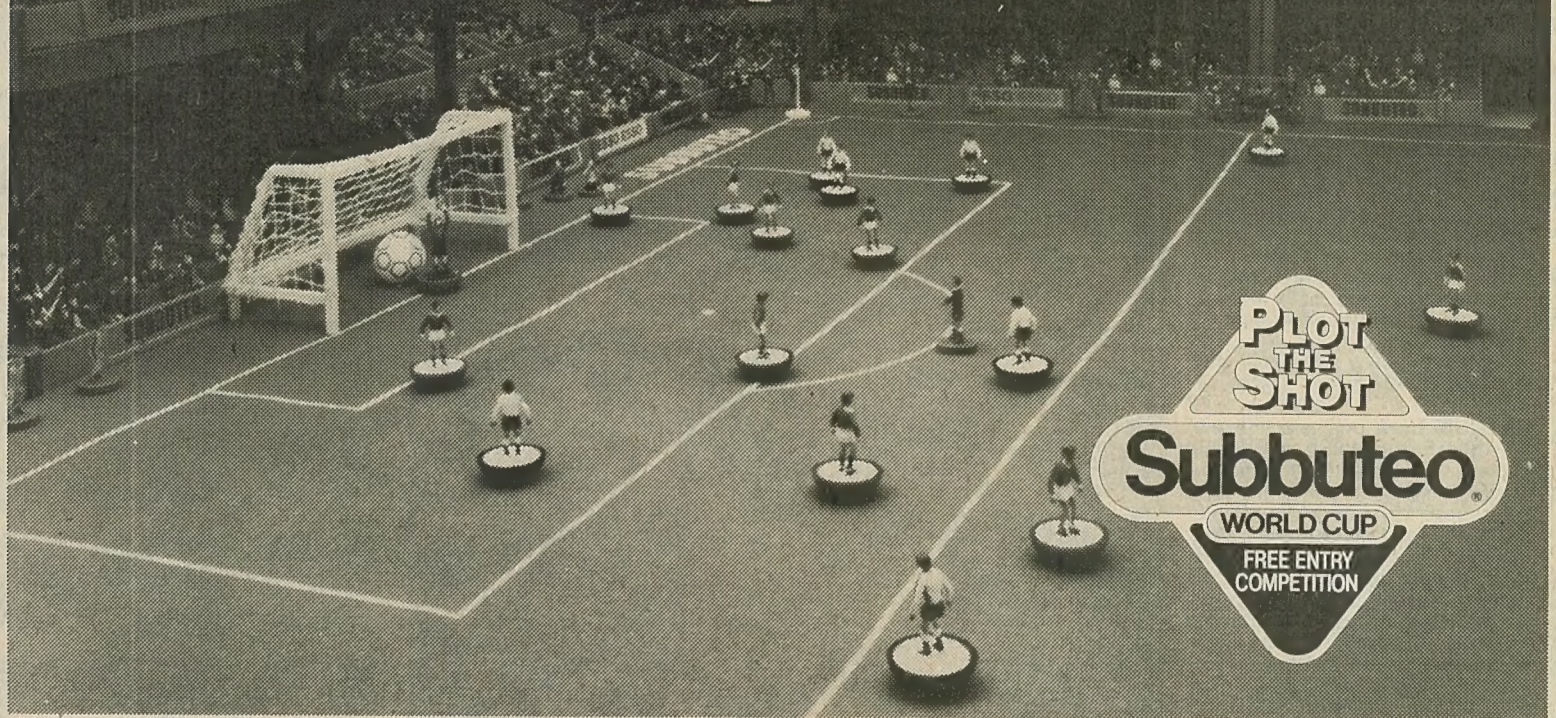
SPAIN as the host nation have got to be taken seriously though, ironically, the World Cup comes at a time when they play best away from home. Goalkeeper Arconada, midfielder Zamora and winger Juanito are the lynch-pins of Santamaria's side, though the Spaniards are taking a long time to form a genuine team out of their talented individuals. The game against Scotland in February will be their last meaningful test before the big kick-off, and there's currently a mood of pessimism among Spanish fans. In theory playing at home will give Santamaria's outfit a boost, but the home fans begin to jeer as soon as things start to go wrong. They desperately need to win their opening match.

Prospects World-beaters on their day, they lack consistency. But it's dangerous to bet against the hosts...

WEST GERMANY are Europe's main challenge to Argentina and Brazil. With Rummenigge, Breithner and Briegel forming the spine of the side, the European Champions have waltzed through their qualifying group and seem to have amazing strength in depth. Jupp Derwall's team will be well supported in Spain, though the climate (especially in the second phase) hardly favours their style of play. It's a pity that internal problems mean Bernd Schuster is unlikely to play.

Prospects Potential winners.

The right moves could take you to the 1982 World Cup in Spain!



Subbuteo's new 'Plot the Shot' World Cup Competition could take you on a once-in-a-lifetime trip for 2, to sunny Spain to see the quarter finals all the way through to the final of next years World Cup! The prize, organised by Sports World Travel includes air travel, 15 nights hotel accommodation and tickets for 8 matches plus the final.

Entry is open to everyone under 17, and is absolutely free, with no strings! All you have to do is use your knowledge of Subbuteo, the world's most popular table soccer game.

We have reconstructed an actual moment from the last World Cup with disguised Subbuteo players showing them in a skillful 3 man passing move leading to a superb goal.

In the diagram the players are lettered so you can put down your idea of the most likely move. For example if you think G passed to C who passed to A who scored the goal you simply write G-C-A in the space provided, and you could be on your way to the World Cup!

Further competition entries are available wherever Subbuteo is sold.

The closing date for receipt of entry is December 31st 1981.



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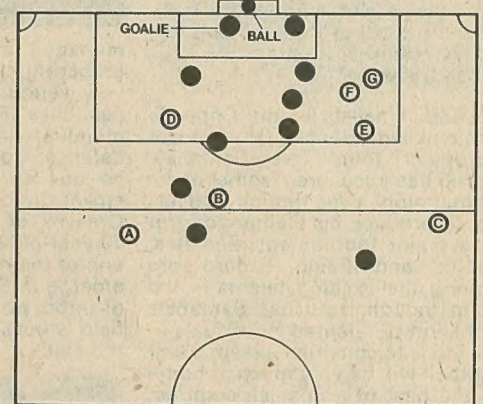
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Post today to Subbuteo 'Plot The Shot' competition, PHS (Nelson) Ltd., PO Box 51, Burnley, Lancs.

But to qualify for one of thousands of runners up prizes take it to the free post box at your nearest Subbuteo stockist.

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HOURS OF FUN AT YOUR FINGER-TIPS.



COMPETITION RULES

- 1) The judges decision is final.
- 2) Entries will be judged only if received before the closing date of 31st December 1981.
- 3) Proof of posting is not proof of delivery.
- 4) In accepting the first prize, the recipient accepts the terms and conditions laid down by the holiday organiser Sports World Travel, Phone 01-370-6075, exclusive UK agents World Cup '82. No cash alternative will be offered.
- 5) Entry is barred to all employees of Subbuteo, their relatives, and their advertising agents.
- 6) Winners will be notified by 31st January 1982.
- 7) Entrants must be under 17 years at the closing date in order to take part in the competition.
- 8) 'Plot The Shot' is a free entry competition and no purchase is required of entrants. One entry per person only will be considered for judging.
- 9) Full rules and lists of winners available by application to Subbuteo Plot the Shot Competition, PHS (Nelson) Ltd. PO Box 51, Burnley, Lancs.

ENGLAND v HUNGARY, Wembley... ENGLAND!

If England don't beat the Hungarians in style next Wednesday at Wembley, then it would have been better if the Swiss hadn't handed us a reprieve by beating Rumania in Bucharest.

There's absolutely no point in Ron Greenwood taking us to the World Cup Finals in Spain next year unless we're confident of doing the sort of duty England has a right to expect from us.

After that shattering defeat in Norway we didn't deserve to earn a place amongst the 24 nations for the world's greatest soccer show.

on playing men used to the big occasion. It would be unfair to throw in comparatively untried youngsters.

If things didn't go right, the backlash could wreck their development.

For a change, Ron Greenwood will have his squad together for six days in which he can assess players' fitness and form before making his selection.

Because of the cancellation of the First Division programme, he'll be spared the agonising experience of sitting biting his nails on the Saturday night, waiting for the dreaded news from injured players forced to drop out.

We're under no illusions. England faces its biggest test since 1973, when we needed a victory against Poland to qualify for the 1974 World Cup, and only managed a draw. I watched it on TV and at the end felt sick.

But as I stated at the start, unless we beat the Hungarians convincingly and reproduce the form we showed in Budapest, we might just as well stay at home rather than face humiliation in Spain. Things are certain to be tougher there.

This doesn't mean I'm in favour of a series of "cavalry charges" straight from the kick-off.

No, we've got to take charge of the game, play controlled, skilful football, keep their goal under pressure without exposing a route to ours.

Before I close, I'd like to take

issue with SHOOT over its assertion in a recent article that Ron Greenwood has a Southern bias in choosing his team.

Ron's a fair man who picks players on merit, not on where they're based. In fact, I'd have thought there might have been a case for accusing him of a Northern bias in view of the large representations from Liverpool and Manchester United!

I've got my fingers crossed I'm in the team that does the "double" over Hungary and really gives a full house at Wembley something to cheer and remember.

Then I'll be looking forward to a working holiday in Spain!

John Shaw

'Win in style - or forget Spain'

PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world



But now we've been granted a heaven-sent opportunity to redeem ourselves, it's up to every member of Ron Greenwood's squad to see we put in the sort of winning performance that will ensure we can do the old country proud on the fields of Spain.

We'd have liked to have qualified on merit, without help from anyone else. Unfortunately, very little has gone according to form.

For instance, we lost to the Swiss in Basle. Then in our next match we met favourites, Hungary, and played them off the park in Budapest.

Improved

One thing we've learnt the hard way is there are no pushovers any more in international football. There's been a great levelling in ability. Opponents who once were chopping blocks have improved their skills and become better organised.

Look at the recent Wales/Iceland game. The pundits were already regarding it as a formality, that Wales would walk it. Instead, the little Icelanders matched the Welsh kick for kick, heart for heart, at the Vetch Field and earned the 2-2 draw which makes it almost certain Mike England's boys will be spectators next summer.

Since that Norway defeat there have been calls for Ron Greenwood to ditch the "Old Brigade" and bring in new blood against Hungary.

The time to experiment is after the game. The emphasis for this vital crunch must be on experience,



Phil Jones hits England's team-mates with a pat on the back for scorer Terry McDermott.

Hungary 1, England 3 . . .
 England's best result for
 years. Their World Cup hopes
 have gone up and down
 recently, but now they need a
 repeat of their Budapest form
 against the Hungarians at
 Wembley to ensure a World
 Cup berth in Spain.

SAME AGAIN ENGLAND!



The power of Paul Mariner in the air was an important factor in the Budapest victory.



Bryan Robson . . . England's only ever present in their World Cup campaign.



Steve Coppell has been out of favour at Man. Utd., but he's still a vital player for England.



EIRE WAIT...



...WALES HOPE

The Republic of Ireland have their fingers crossed that France and Holland draw in Paris. Above are the men who beat France 3-2 in Dublin last month. Back row: Kevin Moran, Jim McDonagh, Mark Lawrenson, Ronnie Whelan, David O'Leary. Front row: David Langan, Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton, Chris Hughton, Michael Robinson, Mick Martin.

Wales have the awesome task of needing to get a great result in Tbilisi against the USSR after their dismal 2-2 home draw with Iceland. Left, Ian Walsh goes near at the Vetch Field, but Wales will miss the Palace player in the Soviet Union because of injury.

SHOOT!

ENGLAND v HUNGARY, Wembley... ENGLAND

A PART from Switzerland's victory in Rumania, the best news I've heard recently was that Hungary had qualified for the World Cup Finals.

I didn't fancy them coming to Wembley needing a point or two; especially a point. We've seen teams worse than Hungary come to Wembley and pack their defence, making things very difficult for us.

With their World Cup future safe, I hope the Hungarians will be more relaxed next week and make a game of it.

They'll want to win, make no mistake. They lost 4-1 the last time they were at Wembley and the 3-1 defeat in Budapest must still rankle. I know if the situations were reversed England would be looking for a result, but then we always do.

We'll have a better chance against a team that comes out and plays. And I'm sure Hungary are a better team than we saw that warm night in June in Budapest.

They seemed scared. The



"The Hungarians should be more relaxed now they have reached Spain."



RAY WILKINS
Writes for you



'Glad Hungary have qualified'

Hungarians realised our attitude was right after the defeat in Switzerland and too many of them hid. The only player who really wanted to have a go was the little winger Andras Torocsik.

I'm not sure if anything has been learned from our defeat in Norway. It shouldn't have happened in the first place. England had players of vast experience in Oslo and the over-confidence and complacency that crept in after we'd taken the lead was unforgivable.

Famous

We're lucky to have another bite of the cherry. It was Lou Macari who told me Switzerland had beaten Rumania and I didn't believe him because (a) Lou's a Scot and (b) he's famous for his wind-ups and jokes.

I think the atmosphere at Wembley next Wednesday will be electric. I know from talking to fans how the entire country is behind us, willing us to win. Suddenly this one has become a game which everybody wants to see.

When Land of Hope and Glory is played, there will be a few tearful eyes and goose pimples, the team will be lifted to such a degree it's hard to put into words.

The Wembley fans haven't had too much to cheer over the past year, yet no one realises this more than the players, and the loyalty of the supporters will, I'm sure, be repaid at around 9.25pm next



"Andras Torocsik was the only Hungarian to impress in Budapest."

Wednesday when we qualify for the World Cup Finals.

I can't believe we'll make the mistakes we did in Oslo. We had the biggest jolt of our careers and to a man we thought we'd kissed goodbye to our World Cup

chances.

I think we're technically better than Hungary in all departments. Our attitude will be right. And this time we have a week to prepare for the match, which I feel we should have before all competitive internationals.

The players will have a chance to rest mentally and physically and Ron Greenwood won't have to worry about injuries in Saturday's League games.

I'm told that when the fixtures were arranged Ron Greenwood wanted the Hungary game to be in November, when English players are traditionally in top form.

Confident

Possibly the Norway tie, in early September, was played at a time when we weren't 100 per cent match fit. Our shooting boots are worn in now and I'm confident without being over-confident.

I came on as sub in Budapest, but since then my form has improved and United have topped the League. I'm feeling fitter and more confident than for a long time and the manager has seen me play when I've done quite well. Fingers crossed . . .

In Budapest he went for experience and I reckon he'll do likewise this time. Even though one or two players have been out of favour with their clubs, I don't think this will worry the manager too

much. He knows who can do a job for him.

When I was having a bad time with Chelsea he kept faith with me and under such circumstances the player is so glad to see the boss has not forgotten him, he often rewards the manager with a five star performance.

Eight years ago I remember sitting at home watching England overpower Poland — and only draw. Goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski was the star of the night, but I'm convinced that Polish performance was a one-off. I can't remember seeing a team dominate as England did that night at Wembley and still not win.

The Hungary 'keeper Ferenc Meszaros was outstanding for Sporting Lisbon against Southampton — but then Gordon Banks was the greatest goalkeeper ever seen — yet even he was beaten.

Although Hungary clinched our group with a 4-1 victory against Norway, I hear they weren't too impressive. Now it is up to us to go out and win at Wembley.

We'll have no excuses if we don't qualify now. Wish us luck . . .

Ray Wilkins



If it's a question of choice—

be like
Emlyn Hughes
and choose
Gola



CUP



ATTACK



LEAGUE



ROY RACE



SPEEDSTER



COSMOS



EUROCUP



4-2-4



The British name in Sports
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PAUL PRICE'S recent testimonial match at Kenilworth Road when Luton drew with Spurs 2-2 brought back a few old memories for his former manager David Pleat.

The current Luton boss said: "I remember years ago when I was coaching our reserve team, Brian Clough asked me if we had anything good enough for Nottingham Forest.

"I told him we had two outstanding young players — Paul Price and Ricky Hill, who were good enough for Forest, but were staying with Luton.

"Well, that judgment has stood the test of time, though Paul didn't have it easy when he finally broke through to the first team.

"He was dropped a time or two, and became a better player for it. And in the last 18 months he has matured into a genuine international class player."

ANGRY ALLEN

WEST BROMWICH ALBION have picked up over £3 million from the transfers of Peter Barnes, Remi Moses and Bryan Robson.

Now they face the prospect of losing the services of Brendon Batson — and manager Ronnie Allen is not happy.

Allen said: "What I cannot understand is that Batson was quite happy to sign a three-year contract in August. Now he wants to move.

"There appears to be some 'tapping' of my players and I do not like it.

"The player could not give me a satisfactory reason for wanting to leave except to say that he had heard rumours that I was looking for a new full-back.

"In the circumstances I feel there is no other alternative but to agree to his request — once I have found a replacement."

CEC PODD, Bradford City's West Indies-born defender, became the first black player to reach 400 League appearances with one club last month.



KENNEDY BLAMES LIVERPOOL DEFENCE

LIVERPOOL star Ray Kennedy has some harsh comments to make about the team's performances in throwing away two-goal leads against AZ67 Alkmaar and Brighton.

"The old Liverpool would never have allowed that to happen," claims Kennedy, in the column he writes for the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*.

"I wonder if we now get too complacent and think that a game is ours by divine right once we've done the hard work," he says pointedly.

He singles out Phil Thompson (left) and Alan Hansen for "bad defensive errors" which allowed Alkmaar to equalise.

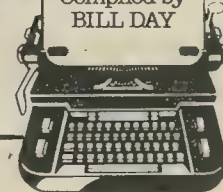
"These two are international class players, yet they made schoolboy mistakes, possibly because our defenders want to play us out of trouble these days when what is needed occasionally is for us to hoof the ball clear."

Optimistically, he reckons that Liverpool will recover their composure and do well in the League this season.



NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



AT A time when attendances are falling at many football grounds in Scotland, the amateur game is booming!

More and more people are playing amateur football these days, and this growth in popularity has led to the launch of the Scottish Amateur Football Association lottery.

The scheme — which puts the amateurs on a par with the SFA and with major senior clubs — will generate funds for the Association throughout Scotland.

"PETER MARINELLO — the new George Best". Statements such as that heralded the arrival of the young Scottish star when he signed for Arsenal a decade ago.

Unhappily, Marinello never fulfilled his ambitions. He moved again the other day from American club Phoenix Inferno to Hearts for £30,000.

His career opened at Hibernian before The Gunners moved for him. It didn't work out and he moved to Fulham, Motherwell, Portsmouth and the States.

Cherry's England chances boosted

TESTIMONIALS for footballers may well be a thing of the past according to England manager Ron Greenwood.

Speaking in Leeds at a dinner in honour of beneficiary Trevor Cherry, he told an audience of more than 300: "Trevor is the epitome of all that is best in English football. There has never been a more loyal player — but I don't think we'll have the opportunity of coming to many more of these functions.

"With freedom of contract, players are going to move around more than ever and not put in the service at one club. That is a great shame because lads like Trevor, Mick Mills, Trevor Brooking and Steve Perryman are the backbone of the game — and every club needs players like them.

"Although some people thought I'd written Trevor off some time ago that was not the case. I asked Trevor to join us on our summer tour last year. Unfortunately he was unable to do so for personal reasons which I understood perfectly, but I want to make it clear he is not finished at international level so far as I am concerned."

GIBSON'S BACK

AIDAN GIBSON, an 18-year-old winger with Derby, is keen to make his mark this season after some atrocious luck last term.

Things had looked bright for the boy from Newcastle-under-Lyme when he made his debut as substitute at Shrewsbury last April.

Aidan explains: "I broke my ankle after I had only been on the field a minute and played on for 20 minutes."

The club signed him on professional terms a month later and now young Aidan is hoping that Lady Luck shines on him a few more times.



FOOTBALL's money problems have thrown up an interesting side-effect... a big improvement in the standard of the Fourth Division.

That's the view of Darlington boss Billy Elliott.

"There are no easy games now in this Division," he says.

Elliott believes the main reason is the number of experienced players dropping down after being released by bigger clubs trying to ease their cash problems by trimming the wage bill.

"The majority of teams are now better organised," he says. "There are better players and better coaches who really know what this game is about."

Elliott believes his twin strikers John Stalker and Alan Walsh are among the sufferers. "Teams have done their homework about this pair and they're being very closely watched in every game," he said.

Blissett blasts back

THREE seasons ago, Luther Blissett was rewriting the Watford goal-scoring record books.

He had won England Under-21 honours and a full cap seemed the next logical step forward for this dynamic young striker.

But then problems. Luther's main strike partner, Ross Jenkins, broke an ankle and Blissett was called back into midfield.

Now Luther's back up front... and that's where he intends to stay.

Luther says: "I scored 28 goals that

season when we won promotion from the Third Division.

"But the injury to Ross was a bad blow. I switched back into the middle. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed playing there and I learnt a lot about the game."

"But I love playing up front. It's the place to be and I get tremendous satisfaction from scoring goals."

Manager Graham Taylor explains: "Luther did really well for us in midfield. But now he is back up front, I'm sure he has got the scent for goals again."



CELTIC'S glorious history is illustrated vividly in a new book entitled "Celtic F.C. Facts and Figures 1888-1981". The book, costing only £1, is available from the club shop.

The research was carried out by Pat Woods, who receives a warm tribute for his efforts from Celtic's chairman, Mr Desmond White.

"It will undoubtedly become, with our other books, an important part of Celtic's history," says Mr White.

TOMMY DOCHERTY, manager of Preston, is hoping to sign ex-Manchester United star David McCreery.

McCreery is being chased by several clubs, notably Luton, Middlesbrough and Newcastle.

McCreery has been playing for Tulsa Roughnecks in the North American Soccer League.

Alex's Jackpot

ABERDEEN manager Alex Ferguson won't forget his scouting trip to Merseyside earlier in the season to take in the Everton-Notts County game.

When home striker Peter Eastoe opened the scoring in the fifth minute Ferguson checked the Golden Goal ticket he had bought before the game.

The Dons boss was in for a pleasant surprise — his ticket was a winner — and he returned north £250 richer after scooping the jackpot!

TREVOR BROOKING will be making a guest appearance at the 5th annual Football Programme Fair, at Walthamstow Avenue Football Club, Green Pond Road, Higham Hill Road, Walthamstow, London E17, on Sunday, December 6, from 10.30a.m. to 2.0p.m.

The England and West Ham star will sign copies of his autobiography. There will be 14 stalls at the fair.

HEART for HEARTS

HEARTS striker Derek O'Connor looks like tying up his future with the Edinburgh side. Re-established in the first team after an unsettled spell, 26-year-old O'Connor is back among the goalscorers and has happily withdrawn his transfer request.



WATCH YOUR TONGUE NORMAN. Barnsley's manager Norman Hunter appears to be poking out his tongue. The former England man assures me it is a lump of gum.

STEVE SHINES

STEVE McNAHON, Everton's midfield player, believes he is playing at the peak of his form again.

McMahon badly damaged knee ligaments in a League game at West Bromwich Albion in March last season. No one was quite sure how long he would be out of the game, the injury was so bad.

He bounced back well, starting a match again in Everton's second fixture of this campaign at Leeds.

"I must admit that I struggled to find any real form for the first ten matches or so," says McMahon.

"It was frustrating. I thought I was doing well, but people kept telling me I wasn't. The harder I tried the worse it was."

"It was just a question of time really, and I'm glad the boss, Howard Kendall, showed faith in me."

Briefly

● JSO Records, of Berner Street, London W1, have released a football supporters song entitled "We Want A Goal". It is available on 45rpm.

● Ex-Northern Ireland international midfielder Pat Sharkey has returned to Portadown.

After spells at Ipswich, Mansfield, Colchester, Peterborough, and in New Zealand, nomad Pat returned to his native Ulster to rejoin Portadown, where he began his senior career, at the beginning of the '70s.

● Ards are the latest Northern Irish club to open a souvenir shop.

Among the items on sale will be the North Down club's attractive, 16-page match-day programme, which, incidentally, doubled in size earlier this year.

● Sean Haslegrave, Crewe Alexandra's summer signing from Preston, was suspended without pay for a week for failing to turn up for a midweek home game against Rochdale.

Haslegrave's excuse was that his car had broken down.

● Manchester United are reported to be interested in Burnley's midfielder Trevor Steven.

● San Jose Earthquakes are interested in signing Brian Kidd, Bolton's former Manchester United star. If he crosses the Atlantic he will team up with his former Old Trafford team-mate George Best.

● Stan Cullis, who ended his managerial career with Birmingham 11 years ago after serving Wolves as player and manager for more than 30 years, has celebrated his 65th birthday.

Reject Graham sparkles

MIKE GRAHAM, one of the big surprises on Bolton's six-man free list this year, has bounced right back with Swindon.

The 22-year-old defender from Lancaster has been giving some sparkling displays as Swindon stay among the Third Division leaders.

Graham, who joined Bolton from Netherfield in July, 1975, will always feel grateful about his days at Burnden Park — especially for the help he got from Charlie Wright when he was youth coach.

TED MACDOUGALL, who's career took him to Liverpool, York City, Bournemouth (twice), Manchester United, West Ham, Norwich, Southampton and Blackpool is considering a comeback at the age of 34.

A year after quitting Blackpool as player-coach, Ted has had talks with George Best's club, San Jose Earthquakes, and has also had an offer from Southern League Salisbury.

"I'm just as fit now as when I played in the First Division," Ted insists.

He scored 256 League goals in his career.

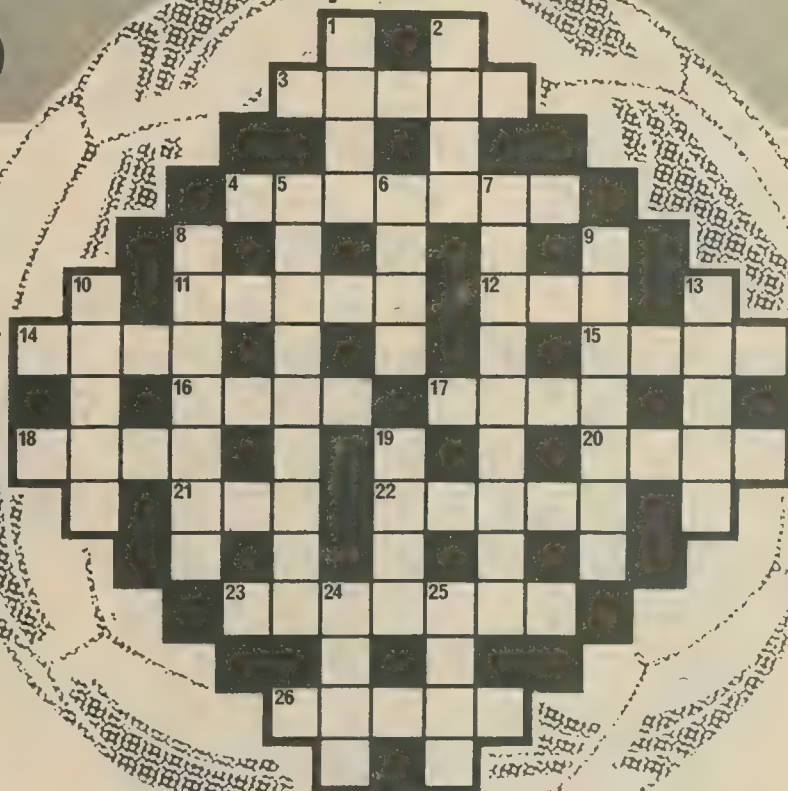
On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

- (3) Roger —, Derby County goalkeeper. (5)
 (4) — Town, winners of the UEFA Cup, 1981. (7)
 (11) Avoid or dodge. (5)
 (12) — Davies, Newcastle defender. (3)
 (14) Without feeling, as after an anaesthetic. (4)
 (15) Another ball game many soccer stars play. (4)
 (16) Garry —ley; Swansea midfielder player. (4)
 (17) Player who is the object of much admiration. (4)
 (18) Steve —t of Charlton. (4)
 (20) If Stranraer, Preston, Orient & Tranmere give "SPOT"; what do Ayr, Norwich, Torquay & Swindon give? (4)
 (21) A fish from three letters found in Leeds. (3)
 (22) Another way of saying "twelve"! (5)
 (23) Hires, or signs on. (7)
 (26) David —, West Ham striker. (5)

DOWN:

- (1) — Jack, Norwich City midfielder player. (4)
 (2) — Moses, Man. Utd. midfielder player. (4)
 (5) West Ham midfield player and youngest ever F.A. Cup Finalist. (4 & 5)
 (6) Period of seven days. (4)
 (7) John —, Notts County striker formerly with Orient. (9)
 (8) Malcolm —, Cambridge United keeper. (7)
 (9) Surname of Wales team manager. (7)
 (10) Iain —, Sunderland full-back. (5)
 (13) Jim —, Middlesbrough keeper. (5)
 (19) Use four letters from READING to make a notion. (4)
 (24) — Stevens, Brighton or Everton defender or Cardiff striker. (4)
 (25) Long deep cut. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 42

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This week's Star Letter comes from Barry Price of Tadcaster, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

THE LESSON ENGLAND HAVEN'T LEARNT

WHY do we continue to delude ourselves as to the quality of English football?

We were taught a soccer lesson at Wembley in 1953 by the great Hungarian team, when the myth that England were the world's masters was finally buried.

Yet we have not learnt from that and continue to believe that any English team has the God-given right to beat any team it plays.

We believe that our footballers are world-class yet Peter Withe, Peter Barnes, Trevor Francis, Paul Mariner etc., turn in consistently poor performances and prove that they lack even the basic skills of ball control, passing and shooting.

Only Kevin Keegan is anywhere near world-class and he must be considered to be 'over the top' after some super seasons in the West German Bundesliga.

Football-loving Scotsmen dream of the day that they might pull on the famous blue shirt and are willing to die for their country.

In the matches between Ipswich and Aberdeen Gordon Strachan was, for me, the most exciting player on the field.

I am inclined to agree with G. McGhee (SHOOT 30th Oct.) and would further suggest that more top class Scottish football should be shown on Match of the Day to replace some of the boring stuff we get served up.

I am not Scottish!

● Why don't people criticise Scotland's 'pride' or praise England's 'commitment' when England beat Scotland — they have had the upper



The commitment of Aberdeen's Gordon Strachan (left) was a feature of his club's UEFA cup victory over Ipswich.

hand in recent years. It's also a fact that overall English clubs have had the better of Scottish clubs — thanks to Scottish players, to some extent. Scottish players don't show more commitment than English ones — it's just that when a team's down the knives go in. All teams have good and bad patches; England have had a bad one as Scotland did before Jock Stein. And if you find Match of the Day boring I suggest you see some live football because I've been to some great games this season.

England pride

I WOULD like to answer Bryan Robson's questions on behalf of what I believe to be the vast majority of football fans opinion, whether we would prefer an English side to win the World Cup or to see their club side win the League Championship.

No contest! The climax to a footballer's career is to appear in a World Cup Final and for the English fans the climax of their hopes, dreams and ambitions is to see England reach the World Cup Finals and hopefully win it.

Fans of League clubs would readily give up a League Championship as they look forward with great heart to the most important thing in their lives — a successful England side.

In a struggling economy and society we look to take pride from something, and the summit being an England side to set our hearts beating with joy.

JOHN PARSLAW,
AMERSHAM.

● I think you'll have to make do with the League Championship for the time being.



Another Swansea?

I MUST congratulate Roy McFarland, the former Tranmere, Derby and England centre-half who is working miracles at lowly Bradford City.

They have already topped the Division, and are averaging three goals per game.

I hope they go on to do what Swansea achieved.

PHILIP WALLER,
DERBY.

● I think it'll be a long, long time before we see another rise like Swansea's.

Optimistic Scot

I AM very optimistic about Scotland's World Cup chances in Spain next summer.

In Jock Stein, we have a very level-headed manager whose wealth of experience will hopefully prevent the mistakes made in Argentina from being repeated.

Jock has built a strong pool of players, men who are primarily concerned with winning football matches, and not with personal financial gain.

The determination, skill and attitude of players such as Jordan, Robertson and Danny McGrain could bring Scotland long-awaited success at the highest level.

JOHN NIVEN,
LOANSDEAN.

● At the moment Scotland fall into the 'difficult to beat' category. With more firepower they could be a real force.

Get stuck in!

MY advice to England's footballers is simple. Forget the fancy stuff and get stuck in like the Scotland team did against Northern Ireland. They didn't play with a lot of skill, just fought like lions.

Gone are the days when you could rely on skilful midfielders to produce the goods on the night; gone are the days when you could look down on inferior nations, gone are the days when England were one of the top footballing nations, and to get back there it is not skill they need.

BRIAN ARTHUR,
GLASGOW.

● I don't think England fans will mind how the team beats Hungary... as long as it does.

Pen-pal

I AM a Dutch boy who would like to correspond with a boy or girl who supports West Ham United.

RENE LAGEWEG,
10 LULOFWARSSTRAAT 3,
252 AN DEN HAAG,
HOLLAND.

Leader Corrigan

FACE reality Ron, you have tried Clemence and Shilton, who have failed.

Were you not watching when Joe Corrigan gave the best goalkeeping performance ever seen in an F.A. Cup Final?

Big Joe has a right to the number one shirt for England and it is a shame that besides the few caps he has had to wait so long for international recognition.

STEVE COHEN,
PRESTWICH.

● Joe (left) wouldn't let England down and Greenwood knows it. But my guess is that Shilton will play against Hungary.

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individual letters personally.

At the double

Have twins ever played together in the same team in a Football League match?

LOMBE JOHNS,
ZAMBIA

● Yes, Lombe, they have — but obviously it's happened only very rarely.

One fairly recent example was that of Roger and Ian Morgan — who played, and scored in, a number of games together for Q.P.R. in the 1960's.

And they almost played together at Wembley — with Roger getting one of the goals in Rangers' 3-2 victory over West Bromwich in the 1967 League Cup final, and Ian sitting on the bench as sub.

Unusual name

Can you tell me how Plymouth Argyle got their rather unusual name?

ANNE TERRY,
DEVON.

● It's quite simple really, Anne. The club — formed in 1886, and originally called the Argyle Athletic club — derived their name because the inaugural meeting was held in a house in local Argyle Terrace.

The founder-members wanted a title a bit different from that of other clubs — and, unable to think of anything else, hit on Argyle to fill the bill.

Hat-trick

Has any player ever scored a "hat-trick" of hat-tricks in three successive First Division games?

ADEBAYO OSIROGUN,
NIGERIA.

● That's just what Jack Balmer did for Liverpool in the 1946-47 season, Adebayo.

He got them against Portsmouth (home), Derby (four goals, away); and Arsenal (home) on 9th, 16th, and 23rd November, 1946.

In Division Two, incidentally, Tom Keetley had the unique distinction of scoring a hat-trick for Notts County in three successive away games — against Plymouth, Manchester United, and Chesterfield — in October/November, 1931.

SHORT PASSES

● Colin Bell scored 117 goals in 394 League games for Manchester City; and nine goals in 48 full international matches for England.

(NEVILLE ENTWISTLE,
Birmingham)

● Ray Wilkins played 179 League games (30 goals) for Chelsea before his transfer to Manchester United in August, 1979.

(SUBARI SUKRI, Singapore)

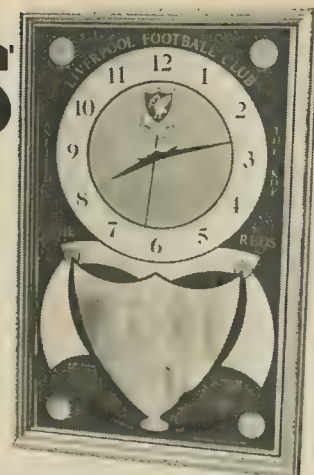
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BLACK POWER

THE warm, soapy water of the plunge bath looked thoroughly inviting and I had no hesitation in sliding under the surface to ease the bumps and bruises after a hard game of football.

is getting stronger

I could have relaxed there for hours, but thought I'd better hurry and started to scrub the mud from my outstretched leg.

"Hell," I shrieked, "I can't feel my leg. It's gone numb."

To my annoyance the rest of the team fell about laughing. I was washing someone else's leg!

I happened to be sharing the bath with ten other black players after turning out in a testimonial match for Cec Podd, Bradford City's popular full-back who has completed ten years at the Valley Parade Ground and became the first black player to reach 400 League appearances with one club last month.

I tell the story to illustrate a remarkable change taking place in the Football League — the black explosion.

The is nothing new about the popular newspaper phrase, but I'm becoming more and more excited about the numbers of black footballers breaking barriers that lead to a career in the greatest game in the world.

We've actually set up a representative all-black team. We've made two appearances, once in Cec's game and the other at Crystal Palace to honour a testimonial for their Scottish defender Jim Cannon.

I played at the back in the game at Selhurst, conceded a penalty, and not surprisingly will be wearing the number nine shirt from now on.

Every week produces a newcomer to the black clan, George Lawrence proving my point when he came on as sub for Southampton almost as an unknown and then Pat Corbett getting the winner for Spurs at The Dell.

Just consider this all-black squad and tell me if you think I'm exaggerating:— Goalkeeper Alex Williams (Man City); Defenders Pedro Richards (Notts County), Cec Podd

(Bradford), Chris Hughton (Spurs), Viv Anderson (Forest), Brendon Batson (West Brom), Danny Thomas (Coventry), Bob Hazell (Q.P.R.), Chris Whyte (Arsenal), George Berry (Wolves); Midfield, Remi Moses (Man U), Vince Hilaire (Palace), Ricky Hill (Luton), Paul Davis (Arsenal), Trevor Quow (Peterborough), John Barnes (Watford); Forwards, Garth Crooks (Spurs), Garry Thompson (Coventry), John Chiedozie (Notts County), Cyrille Regis (West Brom), Terry Connor (Leeds), Brian Stein (Luton), Luther Blissett (Watford), Raphael Meade (Arsenal), Justin Fashanu (Forest) and . . . wait for it . . . brother John Fashanu (Norwich).

Most of them are well known stars, but a word or two about the lesser known lights. Chris Whyte and Raphael Meade are beginning to make an impact in a difficult start to the season for Arsenal. John Barnes is interesting, rising from local League soccer last season to Watford's promotion chasing team this season. I'm told the boy's got class.

I won't talk about brother John, but I must say a word about Trevor Quow. It's probably not too well known that we played together for Peterborough juniors when John Barnwell was reserve team manager. He's fabulous in midfield, but is currently out of the game with a broken leg.

Finding a captain would be difficult. We're not exactly known for

our discipline are we? The experienced Pedro Richards would get the job, I suppose.

The biggest embarrassment of my life happened when I rushed to Heathrow after signing for Forest only to discover that my hopes of joining the pre-season tour party to Spain were in jeopardy because I'd forgotten my passport.

I managed to sort it out with Customs, but it did not prevent Brian Clough quipping: "Justin, you could become the first player to be fined by this club before he's drawn his first wage packet." I got the message.

On the ball
with
FASHANU



The great thing about football is that we live and play together in harmony. There's no racial tension in football.

And I have a message for the commentators who criticise fans for making jungle noises whenever black players get the ball. Don't worry about it lads, we love the chants.

Kevin Keegan would worry himself to death if rival supporters started ignoring him. He'd probably reckon he was finished. It's the same with black players. If the crowds are shouting abuse we know we're playing well enough to rile them. We don't find it offensive.

Problems

As long as blacks can play sport together with whites, there are no racial problems in this country. Gentle ribbing between white and black harms no one.

It's great for the soccer loving black schoolboys to have heroes in big-time football. Two of my childhood heroes were white. Rodney Marsh of Manchester City and Joe Royle in his Everton days. But the king of all footballers for me was the one and only Jairzinho, the Brazilian "panther".

It is a privilege for me to be playing professional football in a country that allows blacks and whites to play happily together side by side.

I'll put that to music for Christmas if you like. It would have to be a reggae beat!

Justin Fashanu



Manchester United's Remi Moses (above) and Terry Connor of Leeds (left) are just two of the young black players to have made their mark recently.

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- 1973 F.A. CUP FINAL
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- 1971 CUP FINAL
Arsenal v. Liverpool
- 1971 EURO CUP WINNERS
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Also col sound 200ft
* 1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
* 1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
* 1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
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* 1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0 100ft/Also col sound 200ft
* 1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
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1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2..... 100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft
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1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final)..... 200ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1..... 200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1..... 200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3..... 200ft/400ft

WORLD CUP

- * 1978 Argentina 3, Holland 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Scotland 3, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Argentina 2, France 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Holland 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Holland 2, West Germany 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Brazil 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Best Goals of tournament..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
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* 1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0..... 200ft
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Jubilant following Qatar's defeat of England.



Qatar not to be sneezed at

THE true sensation of the World Youth Cup in Australia wasn't the early elimination of Italy or Argentina or even the demise of a pale, sub-standard England, but the emergence of Qatar as a soccer power.

Although they lost in the Final to West Germany, on their way there they beat Poland 1-0, Brazil 3-2 and England 2-1.

And the entire population of this Persian Gulf country, all 220,000 of them — including some 80,000 foreigners and guest-workers — can be fitted into a tightly packed Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Coached by former Barcelona striker Macedo Evaristo from Brazil, the entire Qatar soccer organisation is in Brazilian hands.

They came to Australia with two coaches, a doctor and two physiotherapists — all Brazilians.

One of their white-robed officials explained: "We used to invite English coaches at first but they were teaching our boys to run at 100 miles an hour in the desert heat."

'Attributes'

"So we looked around and realised that the Brazilian climate, temperament and physical attributes were the closest to us."

It's doubtful if either the English or the Brazilians will forget in a hurry their defeats to this tiny, hot, oil-rich sheikdom which has a total of 12 soccer clubs in the country.

All the players who did so well in Australia received a "present" from the Government.

First some stories suggested that each will receive £25,000; a tabloid went up to £125,000 each and hinted at a few smaller oil wells thrown in.

The truth is probably a car per player and a strong cup of coffee.

But Evaristo is in a different class. He earns in Qatar a cool £10,000, tax free, a month. That's £120,000 a year. Plus a free apartment with servants.

Even the Brazilian team doctor is on £50,000 a year, tax free, like everybody else in Qatar.

He treats whom he can locally and jets off to London those who need specialist treatment. At Government expense, the Government being the ruling family, the ultimate in the paternalistic system.

Money helps, of course. But it can only develop and not create talent. The talent is there, sprouting from the hot sand dunes in abundance.

Watch the Arabs rise to soccer power in the years to come.

I DON'T need Malcolm Allison to tell the world that things are not perfect at Manchester City. I know they are not.

But I'll tell Malcolm and any other critic this, the foundations have been laid for better results in the remaining League and Cup matches.

And who knows, Manchester City fans packing the terraces at Wembley for the League Cup Final next Spring might just be saying to themselves: "The turning point was that penalty shoot-out in the League Cup-tie against Stoke."

A League Cup Final victory over

Liverpool — now that would be something to celebrate.

There is no disputing the fact that force of circumstances have handicapped the progress I had hoped we would make this season. Indeed, I have to confess that I am not entirely happy with my performance and that of the team in the 13 months I've spent at Maine Road.

Fortunately for my reputation, I get the feeling that people thought Malcolm Allison was a little bit silly to attack me when he came over to England with Sporting Lisbon last month.

Possibly a slight jealousy exists when he thinks of me running the club he once handled. It's water under the bridge and not worth discussion in a season with so much happening, including the suspense of wondering how many



ABOVE: Kevin Bond, a great organiser

LEFT: Kevin Reeves, all alone up front

I could have embraced Joe Corrigan when he dived to save the spot kick to give us the verdict 9-8. I'm a bit surprised they got eight past him.

Some departments of the team have impressed me. Corrigan is always reliable. Getting goals has been a problem, but can there be many better midfield foursomes than Martin O'Neill, Gow, Asa Hartford and Power? But for wretched injuries they'd be moving mountains this season.

My central defensive partnership of Kevin Bond and Nicky Reid is not the best pairing in the world, but Kevin is a good organiser at the back, and talks more than Tommy Caton.

Fans were surprised when I moved Tommy to left-back to form a full-back partnership with Ray Ranson, whom I dropped earlier but was pleased to see return.

Caton's aggression and ability to win the ball has added a new

'We're all to blame for City's slump'

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

JOHN BOND
WRITES
EXCLUSIVELY
FOR SHOOT!



British teams will be in Spain.

So what has been wrong with Manchester City? Injuries to Trevor Francis, Gerry Gow and Paul Power have upset the rhythm I had hoped to establish this season.

Annoying was our crippling

shortage of goals after we thrashed four into Leeds United's net.

Poor Kevin Reeves has had no one to share the burden up front. With Trevor at his side, things might have been

different, especially after showing £1 million form with a two-goal tally against Stoke.

Stoke, a good side, must be sick of us after beating them in the League and then knocking them out of the League Cup in that astonishing penalty shoot-out at the Victoria Ground.

Managers don't get a lot of credit, but I must reveal that we had planned for a penalty shoot-out in training, never believing it would happen.

I knew we would be safe if Dennis Tueart took the first spot kick. He'd crack that one away for certain. My other thought was to keep Kevin Bond back for the crucial pressure kick later. He's good in tight situations, is Kevin.

dimension to our left flank. But don't just think about Tommy as a defender. His raids down the wing are a great boost to the attack.

I hope the average fan doesn't believe that I spend my time criticising players. I criticise myself too — and accept my share of blame for not making Manchester City as potent as it should be.

My assistant John Benson, chief coach John Sainty and I sat down for a heart to heart the other day. Where are we going wrong? we asked ourselves.

One of my burdens was to inherit financial problems when I came here. I had to sell to buy. I didn't want Steve Mackenzie to go, but to get Trevor I had to part with him.

Supervising

We told ourselves also that we had to work harder as a management team; act faster, rather than sit on the fence. We are even starting the day earlier, arriving at the training ground earlier than before, supervising more closely, getting to grips with the problems that have beset our progress.

So it doesn't need Malcolm Allison to criticise my performance. There is no greater critic of John Bond than John Bond himself.

Hopefully, between us all, we will get Manchester City playing better football than they have in the first period of this season.

Read me again shortly...

John Bond



MANCHES



BACK ROW (left to right): Tommy Hutchison, Aage Hareide, Kevin Bond, Tommy Booth (now Preston), Alex Williams, Joe Corrigan, Tommy Caton, Martin O'Neill, Bobby McDonald, Ray Ranson.

STER CITY



FRONT ROW: Trevor Francis, Gerry Gow, Nicky Reid, Paul Power, Kevin Reeves, Dave Bennett (now Cardiff), Dennis Tueart, Phil Boyer.

RAY CLEMENCE ON HIS FUTURE

IN Ray Clemence's opening games for his new club he picked more balls from the back of the net than in over half the average season he spent with Liverpool, helping the Anfield outfit to establish itself as the most successful in Britain.

It was a rare low point in the career of this fine goalkeeper, and it would not be unfair to assume, as he sat in solitary state in his room at the Enfield Hotel where he stayed while negotiating his family's move down South, that he began to regret asking for his cards from Anfield's award-winning football factory.

But that would be to underestimate the man, to deny him the qualities of character that had earned him a place among the Liverpool greats.

"I didn't expect things to be easy," he admits. "I knew I'd have to prove myself all over again. To win the respect of my new team-mates and to convince the White Hart Lane fans I was worth the £300,000 manager Keith Burkinshaw paid for me.

"And when I got off to a bad start — one of the goals in the Charity Shield curtain-raiser was my fault — I became even more determined to make things work out. Being under pressure with Liverpool has broadened my shoulders.

"I never lost sight of the reason I left Anfield. I needed the motivation of a fresh challenge, a change of scene."

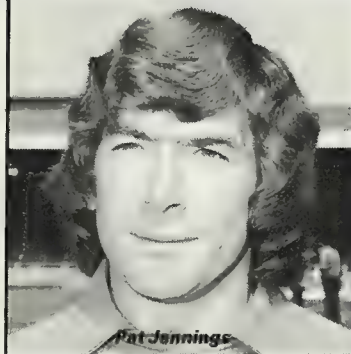
But with Liverpool, Ray had played behind the best-organised defence in Britain, probably Europe. Surely he realised that it has helped him to establish his reputation, a reputation he was perhaps putting at risk?

"From watching and playing against Spurs I

knew they had problems in that area, and I felt I could play a valuable part in making the side as good in defence as attack.

"Keith Burkinshaw — whom since I played with him in my very early days at Scunthorpe I have always admired for his honesty and straight-dealing — obviously thought so, too, otherwise he wouldn't have paid out good money.

"I was always shouting at my Liverpool defence, getting them organised, and I'm just carrying on in the same way at Spurs. Keith



"The way football's going these days, they could be fighting relegation come Easter. Making predictions is a mug's game."

Did that apply to his prospects of winning a European Cup-Winners' Cup medal, the only omission in his set of European and domestic honours?

"Of course. Providing we beat Dundalk in the return at White Hart Lane, we don't have to play the Quarter-Finals until next March. Then I'll be hoping for a lucky draw against an Eastern Bloc side, as they'll be restarting at the end of a mid-season break, which gives opponents an advantage."

Atmosphere

Liverpool, since the halcyon days of the late Bill Shankly, have become known as a tight-knit "family" club. How does the atmosphere at White Hart Lane compare?

"Very similar. And I mean it. Everyone's very involved and friendly, from the board members to the cleaners. They've all made me very welcome."

And what about the Spurs fans? It's no secret they are regarded as among the most critical in the

I must shake off Pat Jennings' shadow'

WITH SPURS

WITH ENGLAND

'Lose to Hungary, and we deserve to be hung'

game and over the seasons have driven out several good players who have somehow incurred their dislike.

"So far the majority have been very good to me. Even after my mistake in the Charity Shield they reassured me and wished me luck. But a small section have had the occasional go.

"You must remember that all Spurs' keepers are now judged against the great Pat Jennings.

"He's quite an act to follow. Some fans will never forgive the club for selling him to Arsenal. Hopefully, I'll make them forget that grievance by shaking off Pat's shadow in my three-year span."

Apart from his ambitions with his new club, Ray still has high hopes of playing for his country in the World Cup Finals in Spain.

"At my age, 33, it's my last chance of appearing on the world stage. The Swiss have thrown us a lifeline by beating the Rumanians in Bucharest. Obviously I'm hoping to be picked to play in the big decider at Wembley on November 18th. If England don't win this one, we all deserve to be hung from the grandstand!

"We have been given another opportunity which we do not deserve. I promise there will be no mistake this time. We simply have to win."

and his assistant-manager, Peter Shreeve, spend a lot of time coaching the lads in training.

"When they forget themselves on the field, in the heat of the moment, a foghorn shout from yours truly gives them a reminder. Let's face it, if they do things right, my job is easier.

"Seven clean sheets in nine games proves we're getting tighter at the back. This also takes the strain off our goalscorers."

With Spurs amongst the handful of clubs at the top of the table, is Ray already thinking of adding another Championship medal to the five he collected with Liverpool?

"It's far too early yet to think about anyone taking the title," he replies.

"There's still a long way to go till next May. Already we've seen some incredible turnabouts. Look at Manchester United. From bottom of the table to the top in six weeks.

THE Football League's brave experiment of three points for a win is receiving a mixed reaction from managers and administrators.

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, has hailed the initiative as "putting entertainment back into the game."

After the first Saturday matches of October, which produced the highest goals total — 139 — since the weekend of September 26-27, 1980, Kelly declared: "From the games I have seen, there has been more emphasis on attack because the reward for winning is higher. The signs are that attitudes are changing for the better."

Fulham manager Malcolm Macdonald, a goalscoring force during his days with Newcastle United and Arsenal, has reservations about the system.

"The win-at-all-costs attitude may suit the uncommitted observers," he says, "but it makes my job as manager harder when you consider you can win away, lose at home and be right back where you started."

Lawrie McMenemy, the Southampton manager, believes the new system has already produced important results.

"There are significant changes in the look of the League tables. Teams not noted for their attacking flair, like Arsenal who, nevertheless, would have been in a respectable position under the old system, find themselves struggling nearer the bottom than the top."

Speaking after the First Division clubs had completed a quarter of their League programme, McMenemy went on:

"As far as Southampton are concerned we took only one point

away from home in the period under review but, by winning five games at The Dell, we had reached seventh place in the Division.

"The attitude now is 'Come on, let's show the public that we really can play' and we have taken part in some memorable matches already this season, notably at Upton Park where we lost 4-2, and at home to Ipswich who we beat 4-3."

Sunderland boss Alan Durban feels the new points system has backfired on his club.

"Like other sides," he explains, "we have sacrificed points going for an away win. We have gone forward away from home chasing the magic three points and have

It was only the third time in the past five years that there had been so few draws and it represented bad news for the pools companies. They thrive on the publicity which springs from the big money pay-out.

Statistics also suggest that the system is not succeeding in one of its main targets — to bring back the crowds.

Although the goals-per-game ratio for the First Division matches on Saturday, October 3, was 3.54, well up on last season's overall 2.65, attendances are still

New system



a winner on points

suffered because of it.

"What you can say is that everything will be in doubt right until the last matches of the season. The effect of a bad run or a 'purple patch' of good results will be magnified by the system. You will not be able to congratulate anyone or write anyone off until the last moment. A team could stick some form together and turn the table upside down!"

What is certain is that the system is leading to fewer draws. At the end of September drawn matches were 22 per cent down on the same stage last season. (68 drawn matches in the League compared with 83).

Saturday, September 22, produced a freak day on the pools with only three score draws and two no-score draws on the coupons.

dropping. The total of 466,088 was 49,841 down on last year.

Dave Sexton, the Coventry manager, assesses the problem this way: "The three-up and down promotion-relegation system did not draw the crowds back. I'm not sure this plan will, either. Perhaps nothing for a draw would be better."

Lawrie McMenemy agrees.

"No new points system in the world will improve gates," he states "People will make the effort to go to football because of the way a team plays and if they can afford it."

A final word from Malcolm Macdonald:

"We have got to give the plan a chance but at the end of the day we shall be judged not by gimmicks but by our standards of entertainment."

"In a period of recession the public, more than ever, will expect value for money."

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, Oct. 24

First Division

COVENTRY (2) 3 (Hateley 2, Kaiser)
SWANSEA (0) 1 (Curtis) 14,050
 Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Kaiser, Whitton, Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.
 Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Stanley, Rajkovic, Irwin, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Thompson (Marustik), Latchford.

IPSWICH (1) 2 (Mariner, Mills)
ARSENAL (0) 1 (Sunderland) 24,362
 Ipswich: Cooper, Steggles, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Mills, Gates.
 Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Davis, Sunderland, Meade, Nicholas, Rix.

LEEDS (0) 1 (Gray (E))
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 25,220
 Leeds: Lukic, Cherry, Gray (F), Hird, Hart, Burns, Gray (E), Graham, Connor, Hamson, Barnes.
 Sunderland: Siddall, Venison, Pickering, Buckley (West), Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, McCoist, Ritchie, Rowell, Cummins.

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (McDermott pen)
MANCHESTER UTD (1) 2 (Moran, Albiston) 41,438
 Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson (Whelan), McDermott, Souness.
 Man. Utd.: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan, Robson, Birtles, Stapleton, Moses, Coppell.

MANCHESTER CITY 0
NOTTM. FOREST 0 34,881
 Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, Reid, Bond, Power, Caton, Tueart, O'Neill (Hareide), Hutchison, Hartford, Reeves.
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gunn, McGovern, Needham, Aas, Gray, Wallace, Fashanu, Proctor, Robertson (Walsh).

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0
EVERTON (1) 2 (Ferguson 2) 13,423
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bolton, Angus, Baxter, McAndrew, Cochrane, Otto, Woof, Shearer (Hodgson), Askew.
 Everton: Arnold, Stevens, Bailey, Higgins, Lyons, Lodge, McMahon, O'Keefe, Ferguson, Ainscow (Biley), McBride.

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Masson)
WEST HAM (0) 1 (Brooking) 12,505
 Notts County: Avramovic, Goodwin, O'Brien, Hunt, Lahtinen, Richards, Chiedozi, Masson, McCulloch, Hooks, Mair.
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Brush, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
STOKE (0) 1 (Chapman)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 15,399
 Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Smith, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Maguire.
 Birmingham: Weslands, Van Den Hauwe, Hawker, Dillon, Broadhurst, Todd, Brocken, Adams, Worthington, Gemmill, van Mierlo.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Robinson) 37,294
 Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Hazard, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Gavin, Hoddle, Crooks.
 Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Williams, Grealish, Foster, Gating, Case, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab, Smith.

WBA (1) 1 (Brown)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Channon) 15,730
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, King (Mills), Wile, Robertson, Jol, Brown, Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.
 Southampton: Katalinic, Baker (S), Holmes, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Lawrence, Armstrong, Baker (G) (Puckett).

WOLVES (0) 0
ASTON VILLA (2) 3 (Shaw 2, Palmer (og)) 19,942
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Matthews, Gallagher, Villazan, Birch, Clarke, Eves, Brazier, Carr.
 Aston Villa: Rimmer, Williams, Gibson, Evans, Ormsby, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowens, Morley.

Second Division

BOLTON (2) 3 (Henry 2, Kidd)
CAMBRIDGE (2) 4 (Spriggs pen, Turner, Gibbins, Mayo) 5,751
 Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Brennan (Foster), Henry, Jones, Gowing, Chandler, Kidd, Thomas, Hoggan, Bennett.
 Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Reilly, Fallon, Turner, Christie, Spriggs, Lockhart, Gibbins, Mayo.

CARDIFF (0) 1 (Stevens)
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Gilbert (og)) 4,357
 Cardiff: Grotier, Grapes, Gilbert, Maddy (Thomas), Pontin, Dwyer, Bennett, Micallef, Stevens, Hughes, Lewis.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson, Petts, Keay, MacLaren, Tong, McNally (Edwards), Atkins, Cross, Bates.

CHELSEA (1) 1 (Mayes)
BARNLEY (1) 2 (Banks, Glavin) 15,268
 Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Hutchings, Bumstead, Pates, Chivers, Rhoades-Brown, Britton (Droy), Lee, Mayes, Filley.
 Barnley: Horn, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Parker, Aylott, McHale, Campbell.

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0
DERBY (1) 1 (Swindlehurst) 11,127
 C. Palace: Barron, Bason, Lovell, Murphy, Cannon, Gilbert, Brooks, Smillie, Hughes (Galliers), Langley, Hilaire.
 Derby: Jones, Coop, Buckley, Powell (S), Sheridan, Powell (B), Emery, Reid, Clayton, Swindlehurst, Emson.



Derby defender Mick Coop (right) clears the danger against Crystal Palace.

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Wigginton)
BLACKBURN (1) 1 (Garner) 7,159
 Grimsby: Batch, Stone (Kilmore), Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore (K), Steeples, Ford, Whymark, Mitchell, Cumming.
 Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Hamilton, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Burke, Lowey, Garner, Brotherton.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Shinton)
ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Gooding) 19,039
 Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Trewick, Barton, Halliday, Shinton, Martin, Varadi, Wharton (Shoulder), Waddle.
 Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Breckin, Rhoades, Stancliffe, Green, Towner, Gooding, Moore, Fern, Henson.

QPR (1) 2 (Stainrod, Gregory)
LEICESTER (0) 0 12,419
 QPR: Burridge, Gillard, Hazell, Roeder, Fenwick, Gregory, Waddock, Francis (Burke), Allen, Flanagan, Stainrod.
 Leicester: Wallington, O'Neill, Scott, Williams, Leet, Ramsey, MacDonald, Young (Lynex), Linaker, Wilson, Robson.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 2 (Bannister, Shirtliff)
OLDHAM (0) 1 (Wylde) 17,389
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Shirtliff, Taylor, Megson, Sterland (Pearson), Bannister, McCulloch, Curran.
 Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolickin, Ryan, Keegan, Clements, Fletcher, Wylde, Heaton, Steel, Palmer, Atkinson.

WATFORD (2) 3 (Bolton, Barnes, Blissett)
NORWICH (0) 0 14,463
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Jenkins (Rostron), Jackett, Barnes.
 Norwich: Woods, Symonds, Donachie, McGuire, Walford, Hoadley, Barham, Fashanu, Bertschin (Jack), Mendham, Woods.

WREXHAM (0) 0
LUTON (2) 2 (Donaghy, White) 4,069
 Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Jones, Bator, Downman, Cegielski, Ronson, Fox, McNeil, Edwards, Vinter (Hunt), Carrodus.
 Luton: Findlay, Shepherd, Goodyear, Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, White, Stein, Fucillo, Moss.

Third Division

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 3 (Randall, Stephens, McCaffery)
HUDDERSFIELD (2) 2 (Lillis, Fletcher) 5,064

BURNLEY (2) 2 (Hamilton, Taylor)
FULHAM (0) 2 (Davies 2) 4,224

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Crabbe, Beardsley)
WALSALL (0) 1 (Loveridge) 3,956

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
BRENTFORD (0) 2 (Bowen, Roberts) 5,525

EXETER (2) 4 (Rogers (P), Kellow 2 (pen), Roberts)
PRESTON (1) 3 (Bruce 2 (1 pen), Doyle) 3,642

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Bell)
BRISTOL CITY (2) 2 (Harford 2) 3,683

MILLWALL (0) 1 (Chatterton)
GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (White 2) 5,763

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (2) 2 (McCall, Rougvie)
DUNDEE (0) 1 (Stephen) 11,000
 Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvie, Simpson, Cooper, Miller, Strachan, McMaster (Watson), McGhee, McCall, Weir.
 Dundee: Goddes, Barr, Cameron, Kidd (Stephen), Glennie, MacDonald, Ferguson, Bell, Mackie, McGeechie, Murray.

AIRDRIE (1) 1 (McGuire)
PARTICK (0) 1 (Clark) 3,000
 Airdrie: Martin, Erwin, Rodger, McCluskey, March, Walker, Anderson, Gordon, Clark, Thompson, McGuire.
 Partick: Rough, Doyle, McKinnon, Anderson, Dunlop, Whittaker, McDonald, Watson, Johnstone, Clark, Park.

DUNDEE UTD (0) 0
ST. MIRREN (2) 2 (Bone 2) 6,960
 Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Reid, Kopel, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Bannan, Sturrock, Dodds, Payne, Milne.
 St. Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Fulton, McCormack, Copland, Stark, Abercrombie, Bone, McDougall, McAvennie, Scanlon.

HIBS (1) 1 (MacLeod pen)
CELTIC (0) 0 18,000
 Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Turnbull, Patterson, McNamara, Callaghan, Flavell, Rae, Murray, MacLeod, Duncan.
 Celtic: Bonner, Moyes, Reid, Aitken, Garner, MacLeod, Sullivan, McGarvey, Nicholas, Burns, McCluskey.

RANGERS (0) 1 (Russell)
MORTON (1) 1 (Rooney) 21,000
 Rangers: Stewart, Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson, Bett, Russell, MacDonald, McAdam, Cooper, Johnston (Redford).
 Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, McLaughlin, Orr, Rooney, Busby, McNeill, Docherty, Hutchison (Cochrane), Ritchie (Favin).

Scottish First

AYR (0) 1 (Morris)
DUMFERMLINE (0) 1 (McNaughton) 2,706

DUMBARTON (0) 0
KILMARNOCK (0) 2 (Mauchlen, Clark) 800

E. STIRLING 0
CLYDEBANK 0 500

MOTHERWELL (1) 2 (McKeever 2)
HEARTS (1) 2 (Pettigrew 2) 7,662

QUEEN'S PARK (1) 2 (McGregor, McNiven)
FALKIRK (2) 2 (Smith, Hurd) 1,045

RAITH (0) 2 (Ballantyne 2)
QoS (1) 1 (Robertson) 1,000

ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (Grogan)
HAMILTON (1) 1 (McDowell) 1,797

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 3 (Graham 2, Funnell)
BURY (0) 2 (Madden, Howard) 4,894

BRADFORD (0) 0
SHEFFIELD UTD (2) 2 (Edwards, Neville) 13,711

HALIFAX (0) 0
COLCHESTER (1) 2 (Allinson pen, McDonough) 1,374

HARTLEPOOL 0
TORQUAY 0 2,099

HEREFORD (1) 1 (Phillips)
DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Wicks) 2,271

HULL (1) 1 (Mutrie)
ALDRSHOT (1) 2 (Lucas, Sanford) 2,999

MANSFIELD (0) 0
CREWE (0) 1 (Scott) 2,513

NORTHAMPTON (0) 3 (Buchanan 2, Bramhall (og))
TRANMERE (2) 2 (Morley, Brown) 1,722

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
YORK (0) 1 (Walwyn) 4,220

ROCHDALE (3) 4 (Martinez 2, Hilditch, Goodwin)
STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Fowler) 1,788

WIGAN (2) 2 (McMahon, Barrow)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (De Vries) 4,553

Blackpool v Port Vale postponed.



Sheffield United scorer Steve Neville.

LINE-UPS... RESULTS...

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, November 14

ENGLAND'S all-important World Cup qualifying clash with the Hungarians at Wembley next week has meant the entire First Division programme has been postponed this Saturday.

So football fans will have to go outside the top 22 for their soccer this weekend.

The biggest crowd of the day could well be at Hillsborough, where Second Division promotion rivals SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY and QUEENS PARK RANGERS meet.

Wednesday won both League encounters last season, the game at Hillsborough being settled by a goal from John Pearson.

LUTON travel to BLACKBURN hoping to avenge last season's 3-0 defeat at Ewood Park, while WATFORD look to take a step nearer to the First Division with a home victory over CARDIFF CITY.

Two goals from Simon Garner and another from Kevin Stonehouse were enough to clinch the points for Blackburn last term and put them into a challenging promotion place, but since the departure of manager Howard Kendall, Blackburn have been unable to recapture that sort of form.

Good bet

With free-scoring Luton dropping only one point from their first six away League games, they must be a good bet to take all three points this time.

Meanwhile neighbours Watford hope to consolidate their best ever position in the Football League. Their 4-2 victory over Cardiff at Vicarage Road in March was their best result of last season.

Malcolm Poskett was on target twice that day, with Luther Blissett and full-back Keith Pritchett netting the other Watford goals.

Peter Kitchen and Linden Jones replied for the Welshmen.

Of the other promotion hopefuls, OLDHAM face a tough test when they play host to unpredictable CHELSEA.

Top game in Division Three will be at GILLINGHAM, where early pacesetters DONCASTER ROVERS will be looking to continue their challenge at the top.

CHESTERFIELD are at LINCOLN and READING meet BURNLEY at Elm Park.

In Division Four, BLACKPOOL are paired against BOURNEMOUTH in a promotion battle, while Frank O'Farrell's TORQUAY UNITED can expect a bumper gate for a visit of promotion favourites SHEFFIELD UNITED.

Scottish Second

ALLOA (0) 1 (Holt pen)	
BRECHIN (2) 3 (Campbell, Henderson, Hunter)	780
ARBROATH (0) 2 (Lees, Shaw)	
BERWICK (0) 1 (Lawson)	531
CLYDE (0) 1 (McCutcheon)	
ALBION (2) 2 (Craig, Gillespie)	500
COWDENBEATH (0) 1 (Forrest)	
FORFAR (0) 1 (Watt)	500
MONTROSE (0) 1 (Turnbull)	
E. FIFE (1) 2 (Millar, Caithness)	300
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Meakin)	
MEADOWBANK (1) 2 (Brown, Sproat)	320
STIRLING (0) 1 (Torrance)	
STRANRAER (0) 0	400

Sunday, October 25

Second Division

ORIENT (1) 1 (Bowles pen)	
CHARLTON (0) 1 (Elliott)	8,265
Orient: Day, Hughton, Roffey, Taylor (T), Gray (Taylor (P)), Cunningham, Godfrey, Silkman, Bowles, Margerrison, McNeil.	
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Dickenson, Gritt, McAllister, Phillips, Elliott, Walsh, Hales, Lansdowne, Robinson.	

Monday, October 26

League Cup

(Second Round, second-leg)

MANSFIELD (0) 0	
BRADFORD (0) 2 (Black, Campbell)	3,522
(Bradford win 5-4 on agg)	

Tuesday, October 27

League Cup

(Second Round, second-leg)

ARSENAL (1) 2 (Young, Sunderland)	
SHEFF UTD (0) 0	22,301
(AET. Arsenal win 2-1 on agg)	
BRIGHTON (0) 2 (Ritchie, Grealish)	
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0	14,192
(Brighton win 2-1 on agg)	
BRISTOL CITY (0) 2 (Rodgers, Mann pen)	
CARLISLE (1) 1 (Staniforth pen)	5,220
(Bristol City win 2-1 on agg)	
CAMBRIDGE (1) 3 (Gibbins 2, Reilly)	
COLCHESTER (1) 2 (Allinson, Bremner)	4,672
(AET. Colchester win 5-4 on agg)	
COVENTRY (0) 0	
EVERTON (0) 1 (Ferguson)	13,770
(Everton win 2-1 on agg)	
C. PALACE (1) 2 (Cannon pen, Murphy)	
DONCASTER (0) 0	7,819
(Palace win 2-1 on agg)	
FULHAM (1) 2 (Lewington pen, Coney)	
NEWCASTLE (0) 0	7,210
(Fulham win 4-1 on agg)	
Ipswich's Eric Gates scores his side's first League Cup goal against Leeds.	

IPSWICH (3) 3 (Gates, Mariner, Steggles)	
LEEDS (0) 0	16,464
(Ipswich win 4-0 on agg)	

NEWPORT 0	
OLDHAM 0	4,578
(Oldham win 1-0 on agg)	

NORTHAMPTON (0) 3 (Heeley, Mahoney, Saxby)	
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 1 (Williams (D))	3,543
(Northampton win 5-2 on agg)	

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 (Mair, Masson)	
LINCOLN (1) 3 (Cunningham, Cotterill, Shipley)	6,292
(Lincoln win 4-3 on agg)	

PORTSMOUTH (2) 2 (Rafferty, Doyle)	
Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Flanagan, Micklewhite)	7,677
(Q.P.R. win 7-2 on agg)	

PLYMOUTH 0	
MIDDLESBROUGH 0	6,402
(Middlesbrough win 2-1 on agg)	



Barnsley marksman Ronnie Glavin.

ROTHERHAM (0) 3 (Breckin, Fern, Gooding)	
SUNDERLAND (1) 3 (Ritchie 2, Cummins)	8,179
(Sunderland win 5-3 on agg)	

SHEFF WED (1) 1 (Bannister)	
BLACKBURN (2) 2 (Lowey, Garner)	13,087
(Blackburn win 3-2 on agg)	

SWANSEA (1) 3 (James (L), Irwin, Curtis)	
BARNLEY (0) 2 (Glavin, Cooper)	9,800
(AET. Barnsley win 4-3 on agg)	

WATFORD (3) 3 (Jenkins 2, Blissett)	
GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Whymark)	13,213
(Watford win 3-2 on agg)	

WEST HAM (1) 2 (Goddard 2)	
DERBY (0) 0	21,043
(West Ham win 5-2 on agg)	

WIGAN (0) 1 (Barrow)	
ALDERSHOT (0) 0	4,926
(Wigan win 3-2 on agg)	

WOLVES (0) 1 (Richards)	
ASTON VILLA (1) 2 (Cowans 2 (1 pen))	19,491
(Aston Villa win 5-3 on agg)	

WREXHAM (0) 0	
LUTON (0) 1 (White)	3,453
(Wrexham win 2-1 on agg)	

Scottish Second

FORFAR (0) 0	
BRECHIN (0) 1 (Stewart)	800

Wednesday, Oct 28

League Cup

(Second Round, second-leg)

CHARLTON (0) 0	
NORWICH (0) 1 (Jack)	7,366
(Norwich win 2-0 on agg)	



Chelsea's Clive Walker (left) and Steve Williams of Southampton.

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Walker, Fillery)	
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Moran)	27,370
(AET. Chelsea win 3-2 on agg)	

EXETER (0) 0	
LIVERPOOL (3) 6 (Rush 2, Dalglish, Neal, Sheedy, Marker (o.g.))	11,740
(Liverpool win 11-0 on agg)	

LEICESTER (2) 4 (Robson, Lynex, O'Riordan (o.g.), Melrose)	
PRESTON (0) 0	7,685
(Leicester win 4-1 on agg)	

MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 0	
TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Hazard)	55,890
(Tottenham win 2-0 on agg)	

NOTTM FOREST (1) 2 (Needham, Robertson)	
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Evans)	16,316
(Forest win 5-3 on agg)	

OXFORD (1) 1 (Cassells)	
MILLWALL (0) 0	4,811
(Oxford win 4-3 on agg)	

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Chamberlain (N))	
TRANMERE (0) 2 (Kerr, Hutchinson)	2,345
(Tranmere win 4-1 on agg)	

STOKE (0) 2 (Chapman, Evans)	
MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0	17,373
(AET. Man City win 9-0 on penalties)	

WEST BROM (2) 2 (Owen, Brown)	
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Atkins)	12,598
(West Brom win 5-4 on agg)	

Fourth Division

PETERBOROUGH (1) 3 (Collins, Kellock, Syrett)	
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Price)	3,040

Scottish League Cup

(Semi-Final, second-leg)

ABERDEEN (0) 0	
DUNDEE UTD (2) 3 (Sturrock 2, Milne)	21,000
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougie, Watson, Cooper, Miller, Strachan, Simpson (Bell), McGhee, Hewitt, Weir (McAlle).	
Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Murray, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Bannan, Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock, Dodds.	
(Dundee Utd win 3-1 on agg)	

RANGERS (0) 2 (Bett pen, MacDonald)	
ST MIRREN (1) 1 (Scanlon pen)	20,000
Rangers: Stewart, Jardine, Dawson (Johnstone), Forsyth, Jackson, Bett, Cooper, Russell (Redford), McAdam, MacDonald, Johnston.	
St Mirren: Thomson, Young, Cormack, Copland, Fulton, McAvennie, Richardson (Logan), Abercrombie, Stark, Bone, Scanlon.	
(Rangers win 4-3 on agg)	



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BOBBY THOMSON

Middlesbrough's Desperate Dan

BOBBY THOMSON, Middlesbrough's bargain £170,000 buy from Morton, is so rugged and mean looking that one opponent was heard to remark: "It wouldn't surprise me if, like Desperate Dan, he shaved with a blow torch!"

"Already I feel right at home with Middlesbrough," says Thomson. "I enjoyed my spell with Morton, but I wanted full-time football. "When Cappelow boss Benny Rooney told me Middlesbrough were interested there was no stopping me.

'Opportunity'

"I've always wanted the chance to show what I can do in the English First Division and now I've got the opportunity I'm in no mood to let anyone down... especially boss Bobby Murdoch.

"He was one of the finest midfield players I have ever seen and it will be a privilege to play under such a knowledgeable manager.

"When I came on as substitute against Stoke City for my debut I was amazed how much time and room I got.

"I was allowed plenty of space to control and move with the ball and I must admit it was a surprise.

"No one was whacking me from behind and it was a pleasure to play in that type of game. It was a lot easier than I expected.

"And just to make it a splendid day for yours truly, Middlesbrough picked up three points in a 3-2 victory.

"I'm not kidding myself that it will be easy, but I'm really looking forward to this new challenge."

Thomson earned himself a hard man reputation in Scotland and certainly had a brush or two with authority, but his ex-boss Benny Rooney says: "Middlesbrough have got themselves a very good player.

"I'm sorry he had to leave Cappelow, but I'm confident full-time soccer will make him even better."

"My main aim at the moment is to become a good player for Middlesbrough. Obviously that's got to be my immediate target and I'll take things as they come after that," says Thomson.

Middlesbrough's midfield was dynamited in the close season when Craig Johnston went to Liverpool, Mark Proctor moved to Nottingham Forest and Southampton swooped for Dave Armstrong.

Bobby Murdoch is rebuilding this part of the team and there is no doubt that strong man Thomson will go a long way to providing a solid foundation.



'I'm NOT injury prone'

insists Sunderland's Mick Buckley

WHEN Mick Buckley left Everton for Sunderland almost three years ago, he never imagined that he was destined to be talked about as injury prone.

"I had a succession of injuries so that my career became very much a stop-go affair," recalls Mick. "And after my name stopped appearing on the sports pages, friends were ringing me from Merseyside to ask what had happened to me."

Understandably, erasing from his mind the memory of his past aches and pains has not been easy for Buckley, but starting this season in Sunderland's first team has encouraged him in his new outlook.

"Every match that I've had, including the pre-season games, has increased my determination to prove that I'm not injury-prone.

"And during the summer I geared myself up to having a good opening to 1981-82 by training on my own — previously, at the outset of the past two terms, I had been sidelined.

"For me, a player who likes to be involved in a match as much as possible, it's vitally important that I'm 100 per cent fit."

Not only does Buckley consider it essential that he is in peak condition — it's also important that he competes in top-class soccer.

Says Mick: "Playing in the First Division is something I sampled as an 18-year-old, and to be quite honest, if you believe you have the ability then that is the standard of football in which you want to operate.

"In the future, I don't want to look back on my career and wonder what I've to show for it. I want a couple of worthwhile medals to call my own, so that I can be satisfied that I have achieved in football."

As a Manchester schoolboy, Buckley won English international caps, and during his eight years with Everton gained England Youth and Under-23 honours. Now he is anxious to prove to new Sunderland boss Alan Durban, who has firmly installed himself at Roker, that he warrants a permanent place in the line-up.

"Our manager is the sort of person who commands respect," says Buckley. "In any tactical talk or discussion he gets your attention immediately, and I'm always absorbed when he gives his views on the game.

'Discard'

"He will make this team tick as he wants it to — he will make sure that everyone gets a fair crack of the whip, then discard those he is not satisfied with.

"No one is quite sure what will happen, but players discover exactly what is expected and demanded of them. I hope to suit Mr Durban.

"And that's my extra incentive. Football is all about ambition, and I don't think you should ever resign yourself to being second best.

"Frankly, I didn't think that way when I came to Sunderland. I knew that I had joined a club that had a big name in the past and today, is struggling to find its feet again. My ambition is to steer clear of injuries and help to bring success to Roker."

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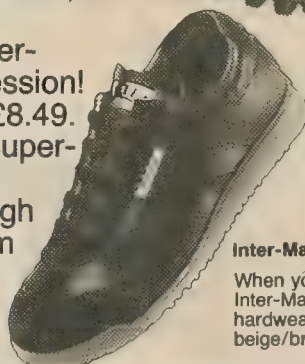
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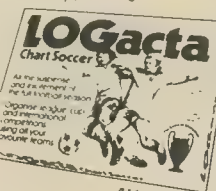
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Qatar-strophe!

IF ENGLAND were disappointed to be eliminated by Qatar in the Semi-Finals of the World Youth Tournament in Australia, you can imagine the wailing and gnashing of teeth in Brazil after they had been knocked out by Qatar in the Quarter-Finals.

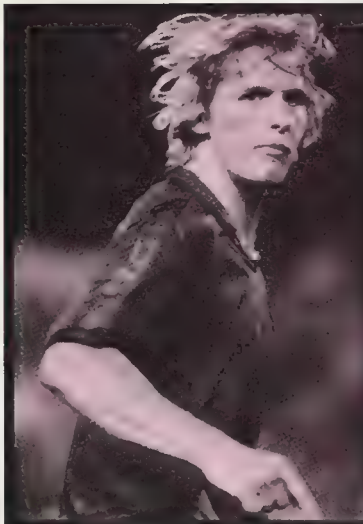
Brazilian soccer supremo Giulite Coutinho remarked that he was "surprised and disappointed that Brazil had been eliminated by a country whose entire population wouldn't be enough to fill the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro."

BEFORE the Austria-West Germany World Cup game in Vienna, the Austrian Minister for Transport — Karl Sekanina — who is also Austrian F.A. chairman, sent a letter to each national team player calling for more "fighting spirit".

Bruno Pezzey, the hard man in the Austrian squad sent his letter back without comment.

Manager Karl Stotz was not too happy at his boss going over his head, but the letters did no good as the Germans won 3-1.

IT may not have all the pomp and circumstance of the Royal Wedding between Prince Charles and Lady Di, but there's just as much enthusiasm in Argentina about the forthcoming marriage on January 3rd of Diego Maradona and his girlfriend Claudia.



THERE SEEMS to be no stopping Bernd Schuster's anti-public relations campaign.

In a recent training game, his team-mate Estella took the ball from him, so the West German international gave chase and scythed him down with a knee-high tackle from behind.

While Estella was lying in pain on the ground, Schuster spat and walked away.

If that's how he treats him

RUDE SCHUSTER

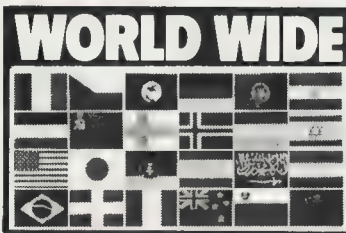
team-mates...

Schuster is now back in action with Barcelona after his two-match suspension.

But he hasn't got many kind words for Franco Martinez, the World Cup referee who sent him off.

In fact Schuster cast serious doubts on Franco Martinez's parentage, and was later obliged by the club to make a public apology.

During his absence Barcelona won their two away games in Castellón and Valladolid 1-6 and 2-3 respectively.



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

GERMANS SUE

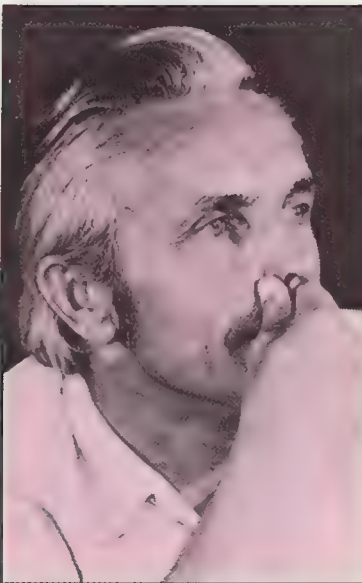
THE EAST GERMAN national team, eliminated from the World Cup by Poland, are looking round to make up their financial deficit.

One of their first moves has been to open legal proceedings in Argentina, where they took place in a summer tournament in Rosario last February.

Having lost their opening game, they were due to play Boca Juniors in their second fixture, but at match-time a tremendous cloud-burst over Rosario forced the organisers to abandon the game.

Now the Germans are claiming the £10,000 match fee stipulated in their contract, plus all their expenses.

Following their World Cup elimination, Europe's longest-serving boss, Georg Buschner (below), left his post as national team manager after 103 games.



ANOTHER record sending-off in Argentina, where the number of red cards threatens to break all known records this year.

Gimnasia y Esgrima's sub Juan César Silva was sent on in the 67th minute of the match against Gimnasia y Tiro de Salta.

The first thing he did was to elbow Mohamed in the face — and off he went again.

MEAN BRAZILIANS

SOME Brazilian players and coaches make quite a lot of money — but don't act very generously towards colleagues who have hit hard luck.

Take what happened when the Brazilian team travelled to Maceió, a small town where they easily thrashed a team representing Eire — the League of Ireland.

The day after they arrived the players were visited by a fellow player who after some years in Rio de Janeiro, had travelled north and signed with a club that went bankrupt.

The player had no job, his wife was ill and he needed money to travel back south.

He organised a collection on his own behalf.

The first to donate was manager Telé Santana. He signed 80 cents of a dollar (about 35p). Most of the players in the Brazilian team followed with the same and finally Zico, feeling somewhat embarrassed (he earns £20,000 a month, not considering bonuses), signed three dollars (around £1.50).

The collection was hardly enough to allow the player to ride a taxi back to town.

Almost walked off



ARGENTINA'S showman goalkeeper Hugo Gatti is not a man to bite his tongue when it comes to speaking out with the truth.

And after his club, Boca Juniors, had lost miserably 0-1 to Atlético Tucumán Gatti remarked: "I've been playing in the First Division for nearly 20 years, and I've never seen a worse match. All 22 players were playing so badly that I seriously thought of walking off in disgust."

STARS BEHIND BARS

IN CHILE two Deportes Iquique players were arrested and jailed after incidents just before the interval of the game against Naval.

Referee Hernan Silva decided to send-off two Iquique players, and team-mates Cristian Sasso and Nelson Pedetti became so incensed that they ploughed in to a group of policemen who'd come on to the pitch to escort off the offenders.

Sentence hasn't been passed yet, but assaulting a police officer could mean a spell behind bars.

THE OLDEST AND YOUNGEST

ILIJKA PETKOVIC, right-winger in Yugoslavia's 1974 World Cup team, is home again after a stint in France.

Playing for OFK Belgrade he is, at 36, the oldest player still active in Yugoslavia.

In the local derby against Partizan, Petkovic was replaced by substitute Peter Mrkela, who by co-incidence is at 16 and four months, the youngest player to take part in a Division I game this season.

News flashes

● Borussia Monchengladbach have played 95 'European' games and are unbeaten at home at the Bokalberg Stadium.

● VfB Stuttgart have been approached by Real Madrid, they say, with an offer for Hansi Muller of £1¼m. According to VfB, Laurie Cunningham will be transferred by 'The Meringues' because he is too injury prone, though the Germans turned down Real's offer.

● Bundesliga club Karlsruher SC started a court case this week demanding £5,000 from the police in Stuttgart. They claim the police failed to give their coach, and its contents, adequate protection during their game in Stuttgart last season and when attacked it finished up in flames and was a near write-off.

● After each of the First Division clubs in Italy had played four games, the

gates and receipts were up on last season. Season tickets sales are up by 6 per cent overall and in the first four rounds receipts were £½ million up.

● Paolo Pulici scored with a penalty for Torino in the 2-2 draw with Roma and that was Torino's first goal from the spot for more than 32 months. They went 17 months, and 33 League games without being awarded a penalty but that was one was missed, 15 months earlier.

DER BOMBER BROKE

GERD MULLER, the former Bayern Munich and West German goalscoring star, is now almost broke and is unlikely to play again.

His old national team friends have got together to try and help him out and persuaded the German F.A. to stage a benefit game for him in Munich or Frankfurt between Bayern and the West German national team.

FOR THE first time in their long and distinguished history, Real Madrid have exercised their right to ban a referee from all their future games.

The victim is Urio Velazquez, who handled Real's 3-0 win against Valencia.

According to the Real players he spent most of the match insulting them, and showed striker Santillana a red card en route to the dressing-rooms when he overheard a sentence that contained a rude word.

A SPANISH sports paper asked Barcelona's West German manager Udo Lattek for his opinion on Spain's recent friendly against Luxembourg... and got an unexpected reply.

"I got so bored I switched over to the second channel to watch the Benny Hill Show. It was a lot more entertaining..."

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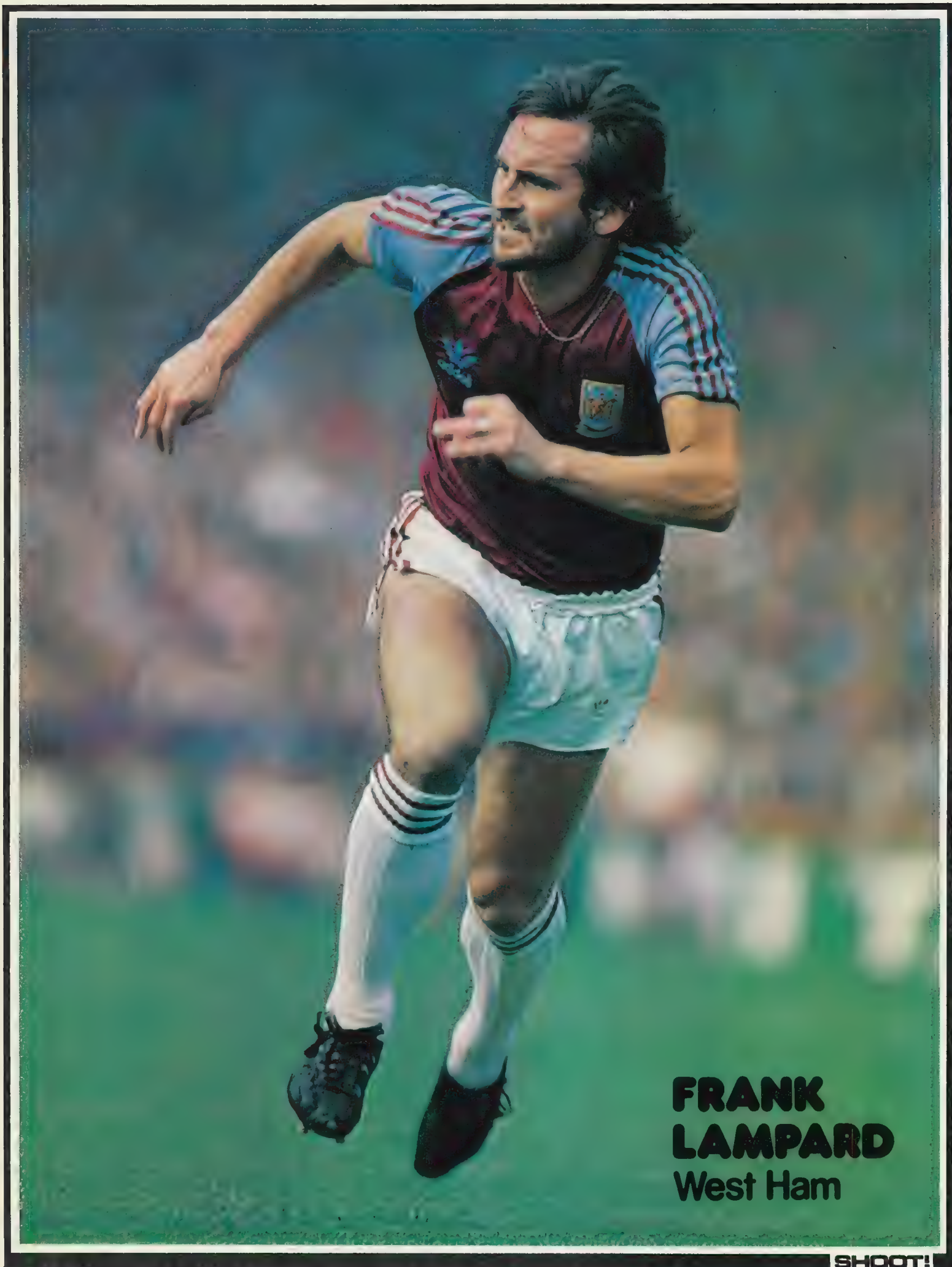
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**FRANK
LAMPARD**
West Ham

TERRY Curran dismisses the bad boy image which has followed him through half a dozen clubs. Curran, Sheffield Wednesday's exciting, attacking winger, believes his determination to do things his way has led to misunderstanding.

"I don't drink, don't smoke and have never missed a day's training in my life," he says. "But my way is a lot different to everybody else's. I don't believe in one and two-touch football. That's all right if you have the players to play it, like Southampton's Alan Ball. But I am a dribbler and when people try to stop me doing that, it's ridiculous.

"I have always had to battle because of my thoughts on the game. I believe you have to take people on, try to beat them. Matthews and Finney were dribblers, they took people on. But I am no trouble maker. I am only a problem to handle because I talk about other methods of playing.

"I am not frightened to take people on. I may lose the ball and people may criticise me. But that doesn't matter."

The question marks against Curran's character and views are relevant at this time. As England look to next summer's World Cup

'I DO THINGS MY WAY'

— TERRY CURRAN

Finals and the future, Curran's name has been on many people's lips.

His club manager, Jack Charlton, admits: "I cannot understand why he isn't playing for England."

Curran's form has been devastating for Wednesday over the past two seasons. Perhaps Curran himself hits the nail on the head when he says: "If I'd been playing like I have done in the First Division, nothing could have stopped me being picked for England.

"But I'm on a hiding to nothing because I didn't pull up any trees when I was in Division One. I had a

bad injury at Nottingham Forest and couldn't regain my place in the side when I was fit again. And I didn't settle that well at Southampton.

"But I believe I could do well for England. The need is for someone who can get hold of the ball and run at the defence. To me, the game is all about beating people — you must take on defenders.

"I believe I'm good enough to play for England and I'm there if they want me."

At 26, Curran has now matured from the unpredictable youngster who had lively spells at Doncaster, Nottingham Forest, Bury, Derby and Southampton. "I have more experience," he says. "I have learned a lot about the game and I feel ready to play at international level.

"I think I deserve a chance, or at least a look at in the England 'B' squad. But I don't think I have any

real chance of playing for England while I am a Second Division player. That's why it is so important for me, as well as the club, to win promotion this season.

"You must play in the First Division to be recognised."

Curran's thrilling skills as a wide player in the Wednesday attack have made him target No. 1 for opposing defenders. But he says: "I have learned to accept it now when people kick me. But the boss has given me a different role this season, and that has helped.

"I have been playing as a free role man, drifting wide on the left or right. If you stay on the wing these days, opponents can close down your own players and cut off the supply to you. And they can slip an extra man on to you so that you are forced to come inside all the time.

"This way, they don't know where I am going to appear, because although I am playing alongside Andy McCulloch or Gary Bannister, it isn't easy to pick up someone who keeps changing position.

'Winners'

"Jack Charlton has been a great help to me; he has given me great advice. As a manager, I'd place him alongside Brian Clough — to me, they are the two best managers because they have both got the right idea. They are winners and I admire and respect them both immensely.

"Clough made all the players under him into better players. And Jack Charlton has done the same for me. Overall, I feel people could have helped me in my career more. I could have become a better player than I am. It is only now that it is just coming out of me."

Curran is Sheffield Wednesday's key man in the race for the First Division. His manager Jack Charlton is by no means the only one who feels Curran could be doing for England what he has done so successfully for Wednesday over the past two seasons.

Terry Curran, the idol of the fans and the scourge of opposing defenders.

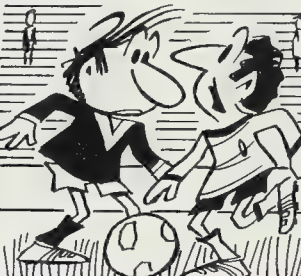


NOBBY

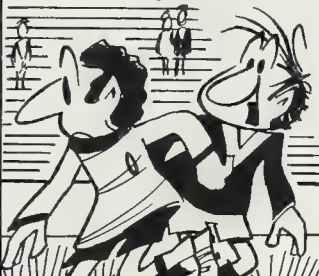
NOT MUCH OF A CROWD TODAY



AT LEAST IT'S A DAY OFF FOR YOUR CHUCKER-OUT!



DAY OFF? YOU MUST BE JOKING!



GROUND THEY'VE SENT HIM OUTSIDE TO CHUCK A FEW IN



McNamara thrilled by Dalglish comparison

ANOTHER Kenny Dalglish . . . that was the verdict on the young midfielder man who was breaking into the Celtic first team to pay alongside Kenny Dalglish in the early 70's.

"That seems a long time ago," recalls Jackie McNamara, who now spends most of his time breaking down raids in the heart of the Hibs rearguard rather than launching attacks on opponents.

"Kenny Dalglish was a favourite of mine at the time — he still is, in fact — and it was a great thrill to line up alongside him for Celtic.

"There was so much he could do with a ball, his talents were fascinating, we all know that now.

"I played with him many times in the attack and his skills were always something special. When I heard that some fans thought I had some of the same talents I was flattered, to say the least."

Today McNamara is one of the most skilful sweepers in the Premier Division, a player who prefers anticipation and caution to the needless, reckless last ditch tackle.

He makes defensive play an art and his contribution to Hibs since his move from Celtic five seasons ago has been immense.

'Nightmare'

The club hasn't enjoyed the best of fortunes of late — "being relegated two seasons ago was a nightmare," admits Jackie — but changes are in the air and if there are any prizes for patience then McNamara must be right at the head of the queue.

Normally, a Celtic player can expect to lift a handful of medals, but the avalanche of silverware didn't come McNamara's way, although he was a valuable member of the first team squad.

"That's life," he reflects. "I'm still as ambitious today as the day I started my career with Celtic.

"I still want to be a winner. I think I've got a lot to offer."

McNamara and present Hibs manager Bertie Auld have a lot in common. Both have, of course, played in the midfield for Celtic and both have that burning desire to be a success in soccer.

"Hibs are a big team who deserve the best," says Auld and McNamara echoes those sentiments.

"It was good to hear the fans chanting last season after we had clinched the First Division

title," says McNamara, adding: "but, really, we should never have allowed ourselves to be relegated.

"The previous season we had been involved in that epic Scottish

Cup Final battle with Rangers. After three draws and a bout of extra-time they eventually clinched the trophy with an own-goal from Hibs' Arthur Duncan in another extra half hour's play.

"We had been so close and got nothing. The fans were geared up for us doing something better and then we were relegated. Now we are back among the big boys and are here to stay!"

With an anchor man of the calibre and class of Jackie McNamara no club can look forward to facing the determined Easter Road outfit.

Another Kenny Dalglish? Not really, but McNamara is out to make a name for himself this season along with the rest of his Hibs colleagues.

Those critics who expected to see Hibs struggling again have been shocked to see them near the top of the Premier Division table, and McNamara aims to keep them there.



THE manager looked at his star performer and told anyone who was within earshot: "In today's transfer market this player is priceless . . . absolutely priceless."



SPURS' Keith Burkinshaw talking about Glenn Hoddle? Manchester City's John Bond talking about Trevor Francis? Manchester United's Ron Atkinson talking about Frank Stapleton?

No, it was Airdrie's Bobby Watson referring to Broomfield striker Sandy Clark (above, light shirt).

Watson, prone to exaggeration every now and again, is a founder member of the Sandy Clark Fan Club and, after his striker's two-goal performance against Dundee United in a Premier Division encounter this season, he said: "He did everything right today.

"It's only a great shame that a bigger audience didn't get to see his skills. I couldn't have asked more from him.

'Better'

"On that kind of form it would be difficult to put a price on his head. You have to travel far and wide to see a better display from a striker in Britain than Sandy's against United."

It may seem strange, but Clark was within hours of moving to Partick Thistle last season when it looked as though the Firhill club might stake a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Things went wrong, Thistle got a bad result on the afternoon of the proposed move and the deal was called off. The fee would have been in the region of £100,000 which, of course, is chickenfeed in today's transfer market.

"The boy showed great charac-

ter in recovering from that blow," says Watson.

"I didn't want to lose him, of course, but at the same time I didn't want to stand in his way and it did look as though Thistle might clinch a place in Europe at the time.

"Sandy took it well, though, and continued to score the goals that kept us in the Premier Division."

Clark — a self-confessed Rangers fan — has also attracted the attention of Aberdeen's Alex Ferguson and there seems little doubt that he will be on the move for real this season.

"I'm in no rush to leave Broomfield," he says. "This club has been good to me and I hope I have been good for it.

"I just want to keep on knocking in the goals to show everyone what I am capable of. Bobby Watson says nice things about me sometimes and I want to live up to those words."

Priceless Clark

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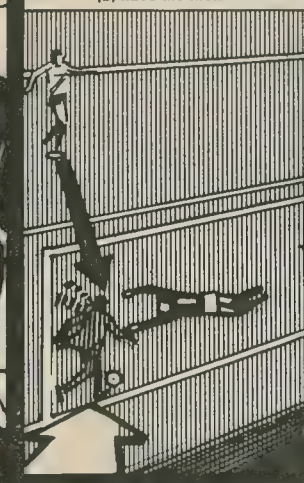
compiled by Keith Hackett



1 A player who is being cautioned continues to dispute your decision. Should you (a) ignore his argument and continue with the first caution, or (b) send him off?



2 A penalty has beaten the goalkeeper when a spectator runs on to the pitch and clears the ball before it has crossed the line. Should you (a) award a goal anyway, or (b) have the kick retaken?



3 A player miscues a free-kick, and immediately picks the ball up to take his kick again. Should you (a) allow him to retake the kick, or (b) award a direct free-kick for handball?



MATCH POINT

This week I'd like to talk about the tackle from behind — one of the most difficult decisions facing a referee. The tackle from behind is allowed as long as the player makes contact with the ball first. So many defenders crash right through the legs of an opponent and think that's okay because they are making a genuine effort to go for the ball. On the Continent this kind of tackle is almost totally banned, and you have to be on the scene very quickly to avoid any retaliatory offences occurring. I have cautioned so many players who have made bad fouls from behind, but this kind of tackle is legal so long as it is carried out correctly.

ANSWERS

1. Send him off (b). Players must learn to calm down when being booked as one wrong word can lead to his dismissal. 2. Have the kick retaken (b). Although a spectator is unlikely to commit such an offence, a similar problem could occur if a dog strayed on to the pitch. 3. Award a direct free-kick for handball (b).



I'M not playing for Aston Villa this Saturday. Instead I'll be relaxing in the afternoon watching Grandstand.

No, I haven't gone on a one man strike. As you probably know, all First Division fixtures have been postponed this weekend to help England's cause against Hungary.

I won't be playing, of course. Ron Greenwood will obviously stand by his tried and trusted men and not introduce new faces into the side for such a vital game.

But I do hope to be playing for the Under-21's against Hungary. A win for England will put them into the Quarter-Finals of the Under-21 Championship.

So we may well be enjoying a double celebration on Wednesday night.

An England victory at Wembley would be our most memorable moment since the 1966 World Cup triumph and give the game here a much needed boost.

Defeat! Well, it's unthinkable. Even though most fans will forget an England disaster for a few months as the race for the Championship and F.A. Cup heats up, the crunch will come in June when they realise we've failed yet again.

England will be a second class soccer nation for another four years.

I don't expect I'll be at Wembley on Wednesday evening. I'll be at home watching the game on TV with my dad... just as we did when England failed to beat Poland in the 1973 qualifying tie.

I was only 12 at the time and will never forget Brian Clough's pre-match description of Poland's goal-keeper Tomaszewski.

He called him a clown and said England would win by at least a dozen goals.

My dad just shook his head and said quietly: "Clowns don't play international football."

And he was right. Even though England had 95 per cent of the play it needed an Allan Clarke penalty to beat the outstanding 'keeper.

Terrible

Surely England can't have the same atrocious luck with their finishing this time. The lads have taken such terrible stick since losing to Norway that it's not only important for them to win, but to win well.

An England victory will also silence the Jocks at Villa Park.

Since Scotland qualified for Spain they've made life unbearable for the English players.

Des Bremner and Allan Evans are the worse culprits. They're great mates and have taken every opportunity to gang up and remind us of our reliance on the mistakes of other countries to qualify.

Naturally, I'd like to congratulate Jock Stein and Scotland for reaching Spain. They must be one of the world's ace qualifiers.

Villa should have been playing Swansea City at the Vetch Field this Saturday.

All credit to manager John Toshack for creating such a sensation this season.



ABOVE: Alan Curtis has rediscovered his touch since a return to Swansea from Leeds at the end of last season.

LEFT: Bob Latchford's form has improved dramatically following a summer move from Everton.

second team, Max Thompson couldn't establish himself at Blackpool and Alan Curtis was struggling at Leeds.

None of them particularly impressed me when I played against them. They looked down and out... until John Toshack restored their faith and confidence and saved their careers.

Now I understand they are playing brilliantly as The Swans continue to fly high.

Consistency

Even so, I don't believe they are ready to take Villa's title just yet. They must establish consistency and learn to live with the pressure of being up with the League leaders for a whole season to prove themselves Champions.

I would imagine John Toshack will be aiming for consolidation this season and a high enough place in the First Division to get into Europe.

John won't be making any rash predictions. But good luck to The Swans. Their progress has been great for football.

Cheers for now...

No one, least of all me, expected to see them top the League in their first season in Division One and not even an early exit from the League Cup can harm the success that has been achieved already.

One reason for their success, apart from John Toshack's incredible ability to motivate players, is the vast experience in the side.

Dai Davies, John Mahoney, Leighton James and Bob Latchford have many years of football behind them.

I've never played in Wales or against Swansea at any level, but I have come into contact with several of their players in reserve games for Villa.

Neil Robinson was in Everton's

A BARGAIN BUY AT CHRISTMAS



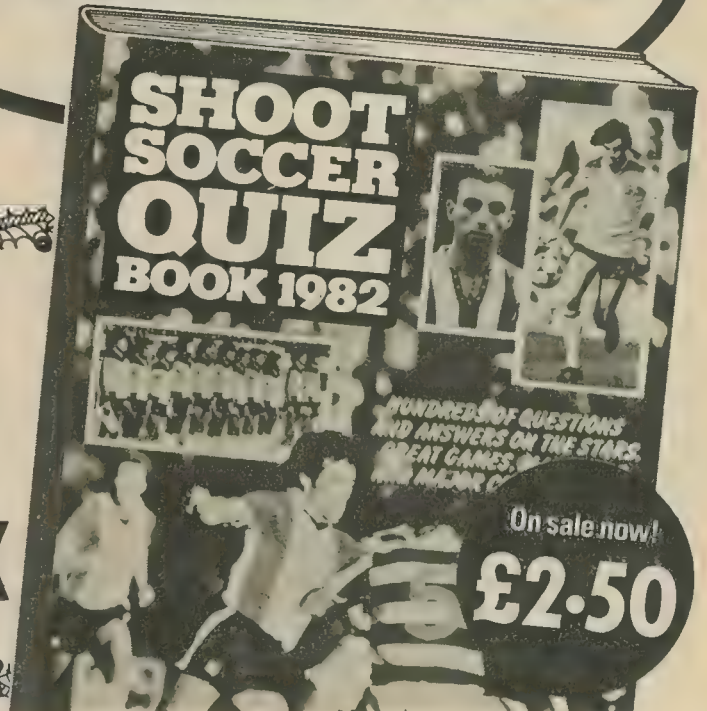
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Sabella will be back

harder at his game in this club, but at the moment we don't have the sort of players in the team to be able to accommodate Alex.

"Football is all about balance in the team, you have to have workers as well as ball-players. I already have Peter Barnes and Eddie Gray, and Alex doesn't fit into the pattern when they are in the side.

"He has also had problems with an injury, and he has been living on his own for some time. You can't tell me that all that is right for him to be in a proper frame of mind when he goes on to the pitch. I still think he has a future here, but at the moment he just has to keep on working and trying to play himself back into the team."

Sabella has been training with the reserves and juniors — a come-down for an Argentine international who won six caps and played against Brazil in the Maracana Stadium.

'Fantastic'

But Leeds reserve coach Peter Gunby has no doubts about his abilities: "Alex can do fantastic things with a football. He opens up defences with incredible ease, and it's nothing for him to beat four or five players at a time. It's a crying shame that he can't get in the first team, because he has more natural ability than anyone else at the club."

Sabella bears no grudge against Clarke and the Leeds training staff for his continued omission: "He is a very honest man, the manager, and he has the right to pick the team he thinks is the best for Leeds United."

"Of course I would prefer to be playing in anyone's first team, but I am with Leeds and I will stay with them until they say it is time to go. I want to prove myself in England — but naturally I can only give it so much time."

"My wife has now returned to England from Buenos Aires with our little girl Vanessa and that makes me happier. But she does get more homesick than I do."

"I will never regret my time here even if I return to Argentina without achieving success in England," he says. "I have learned a new language and made many friends, and I have played in the best football league in the world."

IT'S over three years since Tottenham Hotspur stunned us all by swooping on South America for two of the most gifted players in the world — Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa.

But do you remember their fellow countryman who made the same trans-Atlantic journey that summer of '78?

It was, of course, Alex Sabella, the swarthy ball-juggling midfielder man brought by Harry Haslam from Buenos Aires to Sheffield United.

Things went well for Sabella at Bramall Lane. He was a jewel in a side that was struggling on its way down the Divisions. Not surprisingly he moved back up the League, joining Leeds United for £400,000 in the summer of 1980.

But for the past few months Sabella has become the forgotten man of football.

"I am not complaining, it is still very exciting for me to play in England, although I have to admit it is hard to play your best when there are maybe only a hundred or so people watching the reserves," he says.

"I still believe in my ability, but obviously the manager does not think I am worthy of a place in his first team."

Allan Clarke puts a different interpretation on his decision not to play Sabella in the First Division at present.

"Alex has tried very hard, and I like his attitude. No one works

IT was the best moment in the career of Steve White when he was presented with the match ball as reward for his four goals against Grimsby Town. "My first hat-trick and Luton Town went top of the Second Division in the same 90 minutes!" he says.

That match represented a complete turnaround in the switchback fortunes of the tall, lithe striker. "The crowd at Kenilworth Road had given me some stick — as they were entitled to," he confesses.

"I wasn't really delivering the goods. I was in and out of the side sharing the central striker role with Godfrey Ingram. I just couldn't get going and that made me angry. I knew that I was good enough to play regular first team football."

The outcome was that Steve, a £200,000 signing from Bristol Rovers at Christmas 1979, stormed into this season scoring a crop of brilliant goals. Before the end of October, he had hit more in two months than in the previous sea-

son and a half at Kenilworth Road! "Anything that Steve has done, he has earned," states manager David Pleat. "Football is his life and he never stops working to make himself better. Two words missing from his language are 'day off'."

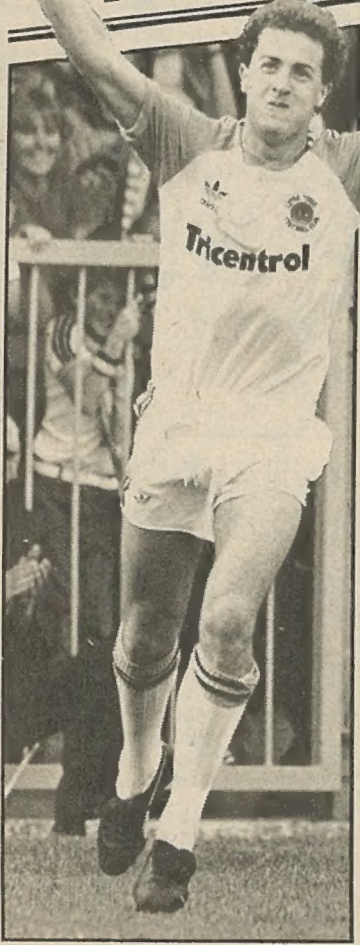
"If I give the first team squad a day's break from training, the message never seems to reach him. He'll be at the ground just the same, working on his heading or lapping the track. He is completely dedicated to the game."

"It is almost his one weakness: he has no escape valve if something goes wrong. His hobby is football and his career is football."

Steve insists: "I do have interests outside the game — but I'm completely determined to make a success of my life in the game. The manager is right when he mentions my heading: that has to be improved and it is one good reason to put in extra training."

With Brian Stein and David Moss, Luton's two most consistent marksmen, finding goals hard

STEVE'S WEAKNESS: He loves football too much!



to come by early on, Steve has taken over the dangerous role. Now he is striking the same on-target consistency which he revealed at Eastville when his 50 match record in Second Division football was almost a goal every other game.

"My best season so far is 15 in half a season for Rovers: this time I'm thinking in terms of 25 goals," he states. "There couldn't be a better manager or a better team to help me to that target."

'Dislike'

"Luton are an attacking side and David Pleat demands the style of balls being played in to feet. That is what opposing defenders dislike most — and what suits me best."

White, one of the very few professionals to come from the West Country market town of Chipping Sodbury, says: "Personally I think that we are going to stay around the top of the table. Everyone in the squad is a year more experienced and that helps."

"The individual touch, the tactics and the teamwork are all being produced with that little extra confidence this season. My own case proves this point: I've put the ups and downs behind me, I'm scoring more often and the crowd have taken to me now."

"Now I'm hoping to shoot Luton to the First Division."

QUIZ TIME

MIDFIELDERS

1. Manchester United's Bryan Robson made his full England debut in February, 1979, 1980 or 1981 against the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland?
2. Don Masson is playing midfield for which First Division club this season?
3. Can you name the Chelsea midfielder who previously played for Ipswich Town, Manchester City and England?
4. David Armstrong was transferred from Middlesbrough to Southampton during the summer. He scored 39, 49 or 59 League goals in 259, 359 or 459 games for the Ayresome Park club?
5. Birmingham City's Archie Gemmill (right) has played for three other League clubs . . . can you name them?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. West Ham's Stuart Pearson began his League career with Hull City.
2. Howard Kendall (below) is the eighth manager that Everton have had since the last War.



3. Dunfermline Athletic play their home Scottish Second Division games at West End Park.
4. Manchester City's Dennis Tueart has played for England on ten occasions.
5. Kilmarnock have never won the Scottish First Division title.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

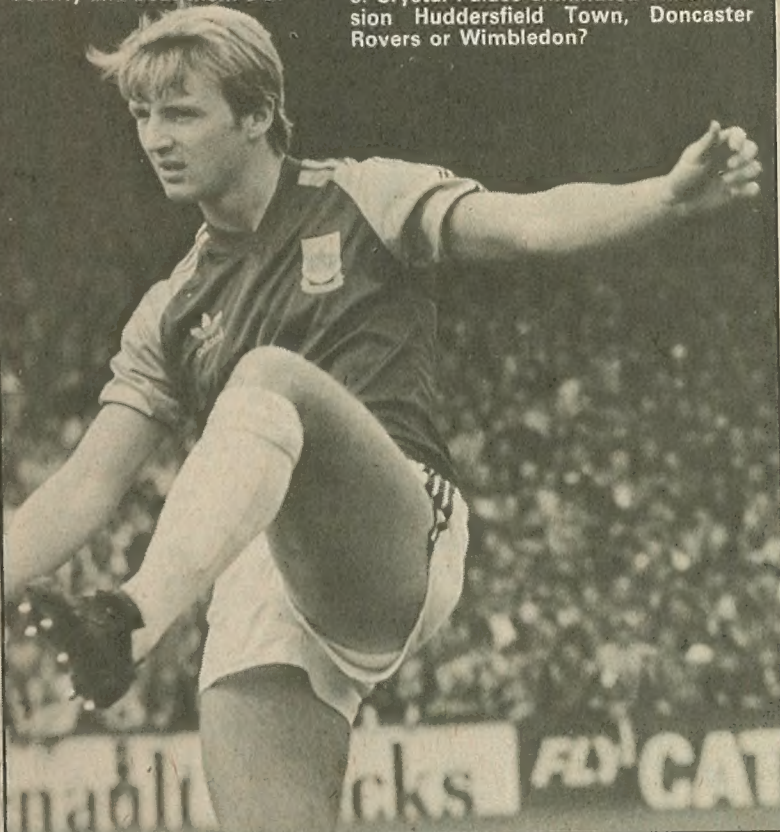
ACROSS: (3) Jones. (4) Ipswich. (11) Elude. (12) Ian. (14) Numb. (15) Golf. (16) Stan. (17) Idol. (18) Grit. (20) Ants. (21) Eel. (22) Dozen. (23) Engages. (26) Cross.
DOWN: (1) Ross. (2) Remi. (5) Paul Allen. (6) Week. (7) Chiedozie. (8) Webster. (9) England. (10) Munro. (13) Platt. (19) Idea. (24) Gary. (25) Gash.

LEAGUE CUP

The Second Round, second-leg games of the League Cup were played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the games?

1. Which Third Division club produced a shock when they travelled to First Division Notts County and beat them 3-2?

2. Swansea were another First Division club to be knocked out. Barnsley beat John Toshack's men 2-1, 3-2 or 4-3 on aggregate?
3. Who was Everton's goalscorer in their 1-0 win against Coventry at Highfield Road?
4. Paul Goddard (below), David Cross or Trevor Brooking scored both West Ham's goals in their 2-0 win against Derby County at Upton Park?
5. Crystal Palace eliminated Third Division Huddersfield Town, Doncaster Rovers or Wimbledon?



COMPUTER PUZZLE

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.

1. Trevor began his League career with _____ where he played 186 League games for them.
2. He was then transferred to Leeds United when manager _____ signed him for £100,000.
3. He made his international debut for England against _____ in 1976.
4. His last appearance for England was against _____ when he came on as a substitute in 1980.
5. That game was his _____th for his country

Computer performance rating: 5 Superb; 4 Excellent; 3 Good.

Trevor Cherry



PENALTIES

1. Who was the last player to score a penalty in the F.A. Cup Final?
2. Tottenham's Steve Archibald finished last season as the First Division's top League goalscorer with 20. Were any of them penalties?
3. Terry McDermott, Phil Neal or Graeme Souness scored both of Liverpool's goals from the spot in their 2-2 draw with Swansea at Anfield in October?

4. Can you name the Aston Villa winger who had a penalty saved by Norwich City's Kevin Keelan but scored from the rebound for the only goal of the 1975 Football League Cup Final?

5. Has there ever been a penalty in a World Cup Final?

ANSWERS

MIDFIELDERS: 1. 1980 against the Republic. 2. Notts County. 3. Colin Viljoen. 4. 59 in 359 games. 5. Pre-Spain. 6. 27th.
TRUE OR FALSE? 1. True. 2. True. 3. False — they play at East End Park. 4. False — he's played six times. 5. False — they won it in 1964-65.
LEAGUE CUP: 1. Lincoln. 2. 4-3. 3. Mick Ferguson. 4. Goddard. 5. Doncaster Rovers.
COMPUTER PUZZLE: 1. Huddersfield. 2. Don Revie. 3. Wales. 4. field. 5. 27th.
PENALTIES: 1. Kevin Reeves for Preston. 2. Nottingham Forest. 3. Derby and Nottingham Forest. 4. 59 in 359 games. 5. Pre-Spain. 6. 27th.
PUNISHMENT: 1. 1980 against the Republic. 2. Notts County. 3. Colin Viljoen. 4. 59 in 359 games. 5. Pre-Spain. 6. 27th.

MONEY DOESN'T INTEREST COPPELL

STEVE Coppell may have a degree in economics. But he also has enough common sense to know that there are some things that money just can't buy.

One of them is the happiness that a place in Manchester United's team brings. That's why he is prepared to turn down a six-figure sum to stay with them.

He says: "Now that players are able to negotiate their own signing on fees, I could get £100,000, maybe more, from a new club."

"But I just don't want to leave Old Trafford. I remember Tommy Docherty telling me that when you leave Manchester United, the only place to go is down and I believe that."

"Liverpool and Arsenal are the only two clubs you can mention in the same breath, and to me even they're not in United's class."

There has been no shortage of offers for Coppell this season, and United have hinted that for a million, they'd let him go.

He says: "I'm not even interested in talking to another club. If I were in it for the money I would, but it's well known that loyal players don't make money."

"As a member of the PFA committee, I'm also very aware of the greedy players image. I don't want to be associated with that."

"For me, there's nothing more embarrassing than reading about another club's interest in me in the

paper and then having fans asking me when I'm leaving. It's as though they believe that I'm in there somewhere, wheeling and dealing for a move."

"It's not true. I certainly don't want to leave before my contract ends next summer, and then I would hope that the club I'd be negotiating with would be Manchester United."

After five years without missing a League game, Coppell found himself dropped to substitute for this season's derby game at Manchester City. That seemed to suggest United were willing to phase him out of their plans.

'Fight'

But he says: "Even if they put me in the reserves, I'll roll up my sleeves and tell them that I am prepared to fight for my place back. The manager has said that he's willing for any player to do that."

Coppell provided the answer by forcing his way back into the line-up a week later — and scoring his first goal for ten months to give United a 1-1 draw with Birmingham.

He loves playing for United — and he feels that the club could be on the verge of great things again.

"There has been a new atmosphere since Ron Atkinson came

here in the summer. It's what the club needed, and I honestly think we'll be in the running for honours this season."

"I know that the club want to get some money back after spending so much, but you don't win League titles with money in the bank. Also, at Old Trafford, the club has always spent money to keep faith with the fans who come through the turnstiles in such big numbers."

"As for myself, my professional ambition has always been to play the next game for Manchester United and it still is. I don't know why it is so hard for people to believe that."

He certainly can't understand why anyone would be prepared to make him the latest member of the million pounds club.

"As an economist, I can see that football doesn't suffer too badly if the money stays in the game. But for a million pounds, a player still has to be exceptional."

"Frank Stapleton, for instance, has been worth every penny of the money United paid for him. But I honestly don't think that I'm that special."

Half the First Division's managers obviously think so, judging by the enquiries that Atkinson has had for his player.

While he has any say in the matter, though, Coppell will continue to wear the red of United. Even if it doesn't make financial sense.

Next week in SHOOT...

WEST BROMWICH ALBION

on what's *Special*
going wrong *Report*
at The Hawthorns.

"Villa need new players"
admits Champion skipper
DENNIS MORTIMER



MALCOLM ALLISON gives
his views on the state
of English soccer

DANNY GREAVES and
JOHN FASHANU —
young strikers
following in famous
family footsteps.

+ **Trevor Brooking**
(West Ham), **Steve Nicol**
(Liverpool), **Garry**
Stanley (Swansea), **Jake**
Findlay (Luton) and
Stuart Gray (Nottm.
Forest).

AND IN COLOUR... ARSENAL
and **WATFORD** team groups...
SuperFocus on Leeds and
England star winger **PETER**
BARNES... **KEVIN DILLON**
(Birmingham)... **PETER WITHE**
(Villa).

DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S

SHOOT

**Super
Focus**

MARK LAWRENSEN

Liverpool

FULL NAME: Mark Lawrenson
BIRTHPLACE: Preston
BIRTHDATE: June 2, 1958
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 11st 7lbs
MARRIED: No
CAR: BMW 318
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Preston and Brighton
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: Turned professional straight from school
NICKNAME: Lorro
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Telegraph (best sports paper)
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Franz Beckenbauer (Hamburger SV)
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Gary Stevens (Brighton)
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAMS: Brighton and Preston
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Bobby Charlton
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf, cricket, tennis
OTHER SPORTS PERSONS YOU MOST ADMIRE: Amateur sportsmen who take part in sport purely for the love of it
YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: Banks, Kaltz, Beckenbauer, Moore, Breitner, Charlton (R), Brady, Best, Cruyff, Pele, Maradona
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My League debut for Preston
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Scarborough in the F.A. Cup while with Preston

FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: None in particular
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Wembley
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Lasagne ad Lambrusco
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .
DISLIKES: A night out with the boys and sunshine . . . Smoking, bad manners
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Phil Collins
FAVOURITE ACTOR . . .
ACTRESS: Jack Nicholson and Lesley Anne Down
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Dallas, Texas
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'Raiders Of The Lost Ark'
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Not The Nine o'Clock News
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Game of golf
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Nobby Stiles, Alan Kelly, Johnny Giles, Alan Mullery, Brian Horton and my family. All have given me good advice
SUPERSTITIONS: Warm my feet before I play
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 17 full caps for Eire
PERSONAL AMBITION: To do well at Liverpool
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Hopefully a Public Relations job
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Something similar to above
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Princess of Wales

Mark Lawrenson

Brighton's Gary Stevens (right) and Not The Nine O'Clock News star Pamela Stephenson



SHOOT!